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Kartika 28, 1896 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Twelfth Session)

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, November 19, 1974/Kartika 28, 1896 (SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Upgradation of Posts of Officers and Class III Staff

+

*101 SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI

SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether any upgradation of posts of Officers and Class III staff has been effected during 1974, and

(b) if so, the total number thereof and the number of posts upgraded in Signal and Telecommunication, Operating, Engineering and Mechanical Department, Zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI) (a) and (b) Some posts of officers have been upgraded in the current year as part of reclassification scheme approved by the Cabinet The total number of posts upgraded and the break-up thereof, department-wise and zone-wise is shown in the statement laid on the Table of the Sabha

The grade-wise distribution of posts in Class III cadres is currently under review However, the number of posts of Train Examiners upgraded in January 1974 on the various Railways is shown in the aforesaid statement

Statement

Total No of posts of Officers in all departments upgraded during 1974

From IA JA Grade to SA Grade	52 posts
From Senior Scale to JA Grade	131 posts
From JS Class II to Senior Scale	95 posts
	278 posts

No. of posts of Officers upgraded zone-wise and department-wise

Railway	Sign. & Telecom.			Operating & Comml.			Engineering			Mechanical		
	SA	JA	SS	SA	JA	SS	SA	JA	SS	SA	JA	SS
Central	1	2	1	2	2	2	..	4	3	..	..	1
Eastern	..	2	..	2	2	2	..	2	3	..	..	..
Northern	..	1	1	2	2	3	..	5	3	..	..	3
North Eastern	..	1	..	..	5	..	1	1	1	..	..	1
Northeast Frontier	..	1	1	..	4	.	..	..	1	..	..	..
Southern	..	1	..	2	..	2	..	3	2	..	..	1
South Central	..	1	..	1	1	2	1	3	2	..	..	1
South Eastern	1	1	1	2	..	2	..	4	3	..	..	..
Western	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	2	2	..	..	2
TOTAL :	2	10	4	13	16	15	2	24	20	..	..	9

Number of posts of Train Examiners upgraded zone-wise
(Mechanical Department)

Railway	From scale Rs. 205—280 (AS) to scale Rs. 250—380 (AS)	From scale Rs. 250—380 (AS) to scale Rs. 335—425 (AS)
Central	146	26
Eastern	175	50
Northern	122	28
North Eastern	37	3
Northeast Frontier	57	14
Southern	87	17
South Central	62	7
South Eastern	109	28
Western	105	27

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय अध्यक्ष महोदय मंत्री जी ने क्लास तीन और क्लास चार के ग्रेडवाइज अपग्रेडेशन पर विचार करने की बात कही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि यह विचार कब तक पूरा हो जायेगा और इस से कितने लोगों को पदोन्नति होगी। जो आप ने लिस्ट रखी है इस मे काफी संख्या आप ने दी है, मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इस में शड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स और ट्राइब्स की कितनी संख्या है ?

श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी क्लास तीन और चार के रिव्यू में कुछ वक्त लगेगा क्योंकि तादाद काफी है। 6 लाख क्लास तीन के और 8 लाख क्लास चार के कर्मचारी है। और इस मे से 4 लाख आर्टिजन्स है और वर्कशाप मे काम करते है उन का अलग से रिव्यू किया जायेगा। इस में तकरीबन 700 कटेगरीज है। रेलवे की तरफ से जो प्रोपोजल्स बनाये गए है वह जब मुकम्मल हो जायेंगे तो वित्त मंत्रालय को जायेंगे और फिर कैबिनेट मे हो कर मामला तय होगा। वक्त तो जरूर लगेगा, कोशिश की जायेगी कि क्लास तीन और चार का क्लासिफिकेशन मुक्कमल किया जाय।

जहां तक शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स और ट्राइबस के रिप्रेजेन्टेशन का ताल्लुक है मेरे पास इस समय फिगर्स नहीं है, लेकिन अपग्रेडेशन मे साढे सात और 15 परसेंट का पूरा पूरा खयाल रखा जायगा।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय 6 लाख और चार लाख की जो आप ने बात की है इस मे अधिकाश वह लोग है जो कैजुअल लेबर के नाम से काम कर रहे है लेकिन उनको 10, 15 साल काम करते हो गए है उन को अभी तक किसी प्रकार का प्रोमोशन नहीं मिला है। क्या सरकार की योजना उनको स्थाई करने की है ? और जो स्थाई किये जायेंगे उस में से प्रोमोशन किया जायेगा इस बात का आश्वासन सरकार देगी ?

श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी यह तो पहले कहा है कि कैजुअल लेबर परमानेंट की कैटेगरी मे नहीं है। तकरीबन 3 लाख में से 75 हजार कैजुअल लेबर परमानेंट क्लास चार मे लगा दिए गए है और उन को उस हिसाब से प्रोमोशन मिलता रहेगा।

श्री चन्द्रिका प्रसाद अधिकारियों का जो अपग्रेडेशन हुआ है उस मे कितना पैसा खर्च हुआ है और अपग्रेडेशन के लिए क्या पोलिसी थी और क्लास तीन के कर्मचारियों का जो रिव्यू आप करेंगे वह कब तक पूरा हो जायगा ?

श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी क्लास दो और क्लास 1 के अपग्रेडेशन का फाइनैंशियल इम्प्लीकेशन 52 लाख रु० के करीब है और क्लास तीन तथा चार का तखमीना नहीं लगाया गया है।

श्री चन्द्रिका प्रसाद कब तक अपग्रेडेशन होगा, कोई निश्चित तारीख बतायें ?

श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी मैं ने कहा कि प्रोपोजल्स इस महीने के आखीर तक हमारी तरफ से मुकम्मिल हो जायेंगे। उस के बाद फाइनेंस और कैबिनेट को भेजे जायेंगे उन की एप्रवल के लिए।

SHRI M KALYANASUNDARAM: When more than three lakhs of casual labourers are denied the privilege of regularization on the plan that there are no funds and when the finances are subjected to strain in the railways, what is the justification for upgrading these large number of officers and incurring such a huge amount of additional expenditure?

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI: The Study Team of the Administrative Reforms Commission the Railway Accidents Inquiry Committee of 1968 and the Railway Conventions Committee have made recommendations on these matters and they have stated that they have taken note of the inadequacy of the promotion prospects for officers on the railways Because of the vastness

of the railway operations, we have seen that the decision-making points on the railways have increased. Therefore, the upgradation chances of the officers have to be improved. Out of the total strength of 8000 officers only 10 per cent upgradation has been done. About 800 officers have been promoted and the total expenditure involved is not more than Rs. 52 lakhs.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: The hon. Minister has not yet clarified the position that out of the 10 per cent officers who are going to be upgraded or rather promoted, to what extent the posts will be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Here certain figures are given in the statement that the total number of posts of officers upgraded from IA/JA grade to SA grade and from senior scale to JA grade and from JS/Class II to Senior Scale is 278. And from the scale of Rs. 205—280 to Rs. 250—380, the number of posts is 900. And from pay scale of Rs. 250 to 380 to Rs. 335—425 the number of posts upgraded is 200. So, all these posts have been mentioned. I would like to know from him that while upgrading meaning thereby promoting, as it is the declared policy of the Government that there must be reservation in promotions also, to what extent these posts are reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the railways in all zones.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: While considering the upgradation of posts I have already stated that the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to the tune of 15 and 7½ per cent respectively will be kept in view as far as possible, it depends upon the availability of officers in that particular cadre.

श्री नाथुराम अहिरवार : जैसा मंत्री महोदय ने बताया, क्लास तीन और क्लास दो के जिन रेलवे कर्मचारियों की पदोन्नति की जाती है उस में शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स और ट्राइब्स के लोगों के रिजर्वेशन के कानून का पालन नहीं किया जाता है जैसा कि सरकार का आदेश है और इस संबंध में शिकायतें भी की गई हैं। क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बात की जांच करायेंगे कि जो प्रोमोशन्स अभी पिछले तीन साल में हुए हैं उन में शेड्यूल्ड कास्टस और ट्राइबस के लोगों को रिप्रेजेन्टेशन नहीं मिला है। इसलिए जब तक उस कोटे की पूर्ति नहीं की जायेगी तब तक दूसरे लोगों को प्रोमोशन नहीं दिया जायेगा, ऐसी आप व्यवस्था करायेंगे ?

श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी : कुछ बातें साफ हैं। क्लास 1 और 2 में शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट और ट्राइब्स का कोटा पूरा नहीं हुआ है। उसकी जांच भी की जा रही है कि क्यों नहीं हुआ—

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : कई सालों से जांच कर रहे हैं। आश्वासन भी आपने दिया था कि पूरा करेंगे लेकिन किया नहीं।

श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी : कछवाय जी के सवाल के जवाब में मैंने कहा था कि जहां तक अपग्रेडेशन का ताल्लुक है क्लास 3 और 4 में शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट और ट्राइब्स का जो रिजर्वड कोटा है उसी के हिसाब से अपग्रेडेशन्ज उसमें किए जाय।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : द्वितीय और प्रथम श्रेणी के आफिसरों के अपग्रेडेशंज करने का फैसला करने में आपने कितना समय बिताया :

क्या यह सच है कि 8 नवम्बर के अखबारों में यह खबर छपी थी कि तृतीय और चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों के अपग्रेडेशन का काम दो महीने में पूरा कर लिया जाएगा ?

श्रीमुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी : इन्होंने पहले जो जवाब मैंने दिया है उसको सुना नहीं है गौर से। मैंने कहा था कि 1968 तथा उससे पहले

भी यह मामला उठाया गया था। जो स्टडी टीम थी ए आर सी की तथा रेलवे एक्सीडेंट्स कमेटी के सामने यह मामला आया था। रेलवे एक्सीडेंट्स कमेटी का इस मामले से डायरेक्टली ताल्लुक नहीं था फिर भी उसने कहा कि रेलवे की एफीशेंसी को बढ़ाने के लिए जरूरी है कि रेलवे में प्रोमोशन चाहिए जो कम हैं इनको बढ़ाया जाय और स्टाफ और आफिसर्स की रेशो को देखा जाए। जहां तक पोस्ट्स एण्ड टेलीग्रामस का संबंध है वहां आफिसर स्टाफ रेशो 1 :143 है जबकि रेलों में 1:185 है। इस लिहाज से उन्होंने रिकामेंड किया था कि अपग्रेडेशन का पूरा लिहाज रखना चाहिये ताकि रेलों में एफीशेंसी बढ़े। यह मामला दो महीने में तय नहीं हुआ है।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मैंने पूछा है कि तीसरी और चौथी श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों का अपग्रेडेशन का काम दो महीने में पूरा कर लिया जायेगा।

श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी : जहां तक इनका ताल्लुक है इस महीने के आखिर तक हमारी प्रोपोजल्ज मुकम्मिल हो जायेगी और फाईनेंस मिनिस्ट्री और कैबिनेट के पास एप्रूवल के लिए चली जायेगी। हमारी तरफ से यह काम एक महीने में मुकम्मिल हो जायेगा।

Dismissal/Removal of various Categories of Employees on Southern Railway

*102. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees permanent, temporary, casual on monthly rate of pay and casual on daily rates of wages who were dismissed, removed or whose services were terminated on account of the May, 1974 strike on Southern Railways;

(b) the number of employees of each category since taken back on duty; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in re-instatement of the rest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Individual appeals submitted by the staff are being reviewed on case to case basis. The process is continuing, and the Administration are doing their utmost to review cases as expeditiously as is possible. Re-engagement of casual labour depends also on the work needs and resources position.

Statement

1.	Permanent employees	
	Dismissed/Removed:	476
	Taken back:	238
2.	Tempory Employees:	
	Service terminated:	54
	Re-appointed:	..
3.	Casual labour or Substitutes on monthly rates of pay	
	Discharged:	about 3000
	Re engaged:	about 1740
4.	Casual labour on daily rates:	
	Discharged:	about 1000
	Re engaged:	..

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: In the statement laid on the Table of the Sabha as regards dismissal and removal of permanent employees the figure given is 476 and those who are taken back are stated to be 238. I would like to know firstly how many out of 476 have been rejected during this period because that is not given in the statement. This is my first Question. And my second question is this This is in respect of those who have been suspended and condonation of break in service. How many of those suspended wo rkers have been taken back In regard to those who have appealed against break in service how many have been condoned? How many cases are being pursued still

in the courts in spite of the assurance given by the Minister that all cases would be withdrawn?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, is it with regard to Southern Railway only?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, If you permit Q. No. 115 which is almost similar may be taken up along with this question.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सभी रेलों का इसी में बना दीजिये

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, is it desired that I should answer Q. No. 115.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member in whose name Q. No. 115 stands is not present but I leave it to you. I have no objection if you are in a position to give the answer.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: About 11240, permanent employees were dismissed and removed from service. About 950 employees were transferred. Out of 11,240 on consideration of individual appeals 7,850 ex-employees have so far been taken back on duty. The process of reviewing the cases on appeal is going on. In the case of those dismissed and removed from service before participation in the strike but put back in service there will be no break in service but for those who participated in the strike and taken back there will be break in service as per rule.

Out of a total strength of 1,30,816 Class III and IV employees on the Southern railway only 476 employees were dismissed and removed from service. Out of these 476 some people have not so far filed their appeals but those who have filed out of these 238 have been taken back. An employee has a right of appeal before the authority superior to the authority which has dismissed him. If he is dis-satisfied with the decision he can go for second and third appeal and then to the Member (Staff), Railway Board. If the employee is still not satisfied with the decision of the Member (Staff), Railway Board he can appeal to the Railway Minister. So, out of the appeals which are not pending it will not be possible for me to say how many appeals have been rejected outright.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: What about the question of withdrawal?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Those employees who have been charged with sabotage. intimidation or criminal offences there is no question of withdrawing the cases from the courts. The number of temporary staff whose services have been terminated is 5502. Out of this the temporary staff taken back is 3842.

The total number of appeals pending is 1706. On the Southern Railway the number of appeals rejected is 105 and the number of appeals pending is 120. These 120 appeals which are pending will be decided within six weeks.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Sir, as far back as 9th September the hon. Railway Minister gave us an assurance that all the cases will be settled within six weeks and that the victimised workers would be taken back and only some cases would be left. Now, ten weeks are over and from the figures given by the Minister of State a large number still continue to be out. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister is it not a fact that many of his officials are going against the spirit of his assurance as they are saying to the workers as to why did they ask the Minister for time limit? That means they are going to reject their appeals. So, I want the Minister to tell the House whether Government is prepared to give a policy decision that all workers will be taken back without exception and all cases will be withdrawn without delay

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: The Government policy is very clear. I have already stated we will be fair and friendly to our employees.

(Interruptions)

I think, Sir, most of the troubles of the employees would not have been there but for the people who are pleading their case We have no say in the cases which are pending before the courts. The law will take its course But so far as appeals pending before the authorities are concerned, a directive has been issued that appeals when filed should be decided within six weeks

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडेय क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इस बात पर विचार करने के लिए तैयार है कि बहुत से एम्प्लई ज ऐसे है जिन्होंने कि हड़ताल मे भाग नहीं लिया लेकिन उनके खिलाफ भी बहुत सी प्रोसीडिंग्स की गई जैसे एन०ई०आर० मे उन्होंने भाग नही लिया लेकिन उससे पहले एक या दो रोज किसी कारण से चूंकि गैरहाजिर रहे तो उनके खिलाफ भी कार्यवाही की गई और मैंने स्वयं इस ओर जनरल मैनेजर तथा माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकृष्ट किया तो क्या ऐसे केसेज के बारे मे माननीय मंत्री जी विचार करेंगे और देखेंगे कि ऐसे लोगों के खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही न की जाय जिनका जानबूझ कर हैरेस किया जा रहा है ?

रेल मंत्रालय मे उप-मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) इसके बारे मे अगर रिप्रेजेंटेशन किये जायेंगे तो जरूर उनपर विचार किया जायेगा ।

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY I want the Minister to reply to my question I have already written to the Minister and the General Manager also But, no reply was given to it So, I want a specific reply to that

श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी ऐसे बयान हुए है कि जहां पर लोगों ने हड़ताल मे हिस्सा नहीं लिया लेकिन बदकिस्मती से डर या खौफ से वे काम पर नही जा पाये । उसमे यह है कि जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य ने किसी खास केस के मुताबिक कहा .

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडेय मैंने किसी खास नही आम कंसेशन के बारे मे कहा ।

श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी उसकी पूरी जांच की जायेगी और इस बारे मे हमदर्दी के साथ कार्रवाई की जायेगी ।

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA Sir, may I know from Government whether all employees charged with sabotage and violence will be treated at par with the others?

MR SPEAKER Let him answer his question

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI: I have said that there will be difference between the persons who are indulging in sabotage and violence and those who were on strike But, so far as the employees who indulged in sabotage, violence or intimidation are concerned there would be no mercy shown to them.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी क्या मंत्री महोदय को मालूम है कि प्राय सभी रेलों मे ऐसे कर्मचारी है जिनके खिलाफ कोई मामले अब न तो अदालत मे है और न विभाग मे है लेकिन फिर भी जिन्हे काम पर वापस नही लिया गया ? क्या मंत्री महोदय इस तरह का कोई आश्वासन देंगे कि जिनके खिलाफ कोई मामला नहीं है और जिनको अभी तक काम पर नहीं लिया जा रहा है उन्हे तुरंत काम पर लिया जाय ?

श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी 19 हजार आदमी तादाद इसमे गिरफ्तार हुए थे । सब के सब छोड़ दिये गये और अब वे उनके जो डिस्मिस्ड है बाकी सब को काम पर वापस ले लिया गया ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी नहीं लिया गया । मै आप को जानकारी देने को तैयार हूं, रेलों के नाम देने को तैयार हू, कर्मचारियों के नाम देने को तैयार हू ।

श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी . अगर ऐसा बात है कि जिनके खिलाफ कोई चार्जेज नहीं हैं या जिनको डिस्मिस नही किया गया है उनको काम पर नही लिया गया तो ऐसे केसेज माननीय सदस्य मुझ को दें । उन पर फौरन कार्यवाही की जायगी ।

एक माननीय सदस्य मैंने खुद लिखा है ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी नही, अध्यक्ष महोदय, हम लिखे इसका क्या जरूरत है ? जिन सदस्यों ने लिखा है उनको तो जवाब नही मिला । अब हम सवाल पूछते है तो हम से कहा जाता है कि आप लिख कर दीजिये । क्या मंत्री महोदय अपने खुद को कोई ऐसे आदेश जारी नही कर सकते ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय आप ने ही तो कहा था कि मै देने को तैयार हू ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी हम कहते है कि हम को मालूम है और माननीय सदस्य कहते है हम लिख कर दे चुके है, ऐसे केसेज है । तो जनरल आर्डर दिया जा सकता है कि जिनके खिलाफ कोई मामले नही है, उनको फौरन काम पर लिया जाय ।

श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी रेलवे की तरफ से यह डायरेक्शन ईश्यू किया गया है और उसमे इस बात को साफ किया गया है कि अलावा, उन लोगों के जिनके खिलाफ कोई क्रिमिनल अफेन्जेज के चार्जेज है थे जिनके खिलाफ कोई डिपार्टमेन्टल प्रोसेडिंग्स डिस्मिसल या रिमूवल की गई थी है, बाकी सब कर्मचारियों को काम पर वापस लिया जाना चाहिए । अगर कोई ऐसे कर्मचारी है कि जिनको काम पर नही लिया गया है तो हम उनकी जाच कर के काम पर ले लेंगे ।

श्री मधु लिमये अध्यक्ष महोदय, जून महीने मे संसद सदस्यों का एक डेलीगेशन रेल मंत्री श्री ललित नारायण मिश्र से मिला था और जो बात-चीत हुई थी उसकी रिपोर्ट तत्काल उनके पास भेजी गई थी । उन्होंने उसको काटा नही है । उसमें उन्होंने स्पष्ट आश्वासन दिया था कि जिन कर्मचारियों के खिलाफ सैबोटाज और वायरलैस का चार्ज नही है, उनमें से एक-एक आदमी को वापस लिया जायगा । मैं जानना चाहता हू कि जिनको अभी तक नही लिया गया है, उनमे से कितनों के ऊपर सेबोटाज और वायरलेस के केसेज है तथा बाकी लोगों को काम पर लेने में क्या कठिनाई है ?

श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी मुझे यह मालूम नहीं है कि मंत्री जी और उन लोगों के दरमियान क्या बातचीत हुई है . . (व्यवधान) . .

श्री मधु लिमये सदन मे वे मंत्री बैठे हुए है जिनसे हमारी बातचीत हुई थी । श्री बनर्जी भी हमारे साथ थे । मै चाहता हू कि मंत्री महोदय स्वय इस प्रश्न का जवाब दें ।

रेल मंत्री (श्री एल० एन० मिश्र) यह ठीक है—मधु लिमये जी हम से मिले थे, उनके साथ एक-दो साथी और भी थे । इन्होंने उस बैठक का हवाला देते हुए मुझे पत्र भी लिखा था, लेकिन उसमे कुछ ऐसी बात भी थी जो नही हुई थी . (व्यवधान) जिस तरह से हम को कोट किया गया है, वैसा बोले नही थे, इसी लिये मैंने उसका उत्तर नही दिया ।

जहा तक मेरी एनोरमेशन का सवाल है — हमारे भाई कुरेशी जी ने साफ बतलाया है, जितने केसेज पेन्डिंग है, जिस दिन अपील फाइल की गई थी उनके निपटने मे उसका फैसला हो जायगा । बहुत से केसेज मे सपोर्टिंग एविडेन्स नही दिये गये है, जितने मैटीरियल की आवश्यकता थी, वह नही दिया गया है इस लिये देरी हुई है . . . .

श्री मधु लिमये· कितने केसेज पेन्डिंग हैं, उनमें से वायलैंस और सैबोटाज वाले कितने है ? मैने अपील के बारे में आप से नही पूछा है—

My straight question is: How many of these people are involved in violence and sabotage and why all the rest of them have not been released?

अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस तरह से समय खराब चला जाता है, जो पूछते है उसका जवाब नही दिया जाता है।

श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी वायलैंस और सैबोटाज मे कितने एम्पलाइज इन्वाल्व्ड है, उनकी फिगर्स इस वक्त मेरे पास नही है।

श्री मधु लिमये अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बडे आचर्ज की बात है—हडताल होने के बाद 6 महीने बीत चुके है, ये आश्वासन भी दे चुके है, फिर भी यह कह रहे है कि इनके पास फिगर्स नही है . .

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: All the charges are false and fabricated (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lakkappa.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The hon Minister says that even after six months he has no information as to who has indulged in violence and sabotage. Are you satisfied with the answer?

श्री मधु लिमये इस तरह से कैसे चलेगा आप कुछ आब्जर्वेशन दीजिये।

MR SPEAKER· There is no question of my observation.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE: You must protect the members

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have called Shri Lakkappa. These questions come up very often. Normally we should proceed further.

आप स्पीकर को पूछते है कि तुम्हारी क्या राय है—ऐसा कभी नही हुआ है—आप सवाल पूछ सकते है—

Other members can ask a supplementary.

लेकिन इस तरह से रोजाना दो तीन सवाल मे ज्यादा आगे नही बढ़ पाते है।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You must give protection to the members who ask questions.

अध्यक्ष महोदय इसी लिये मै कह रहा हू—कि दो तीन सवाल से ज्यादा आगे नही बढ़ पाते है।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE. All these charges are false and fabricated There is no question of violence and sabotage. It is all a cooked-up story of the Railway Board.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Six months after the strike, the Minister has the temerity to say 'I do not know how many are guilty of violence and sabotage'. You must protect the member and get the answer from the Minister.

SHRI S. M BANERJEE: I am rising on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER There is no point of order during the question hour I gave a chance, do not go on like this.

SHRI PILOO MODY He is seeking your protection and you will give it

MR SPEAKER· I do not know how to give protection if the question is answered and the Member is not satisfied He can ask another question.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: With regard to the dismissal or removal of various

categories of employees of the Southern Railway, the question is relevant. Those employees of the Southern Railway should be treated on a different footing. About the grievances of the employees at various levels representations were made to the hon. Minister and I want to congratulate Mr. Qureshi. I would like to put the question. There are employees who had not been involved in intimidation and violence. Such employees have not been treated properly and they have not been taken back. Such employees had been representing to the hon. Minister. Why has there been delay in taking them back? The assurance given by the hon. Minister has not been implemented.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: So far as the Southern Railway is concerned, I should like to pay a compliment to that railway; they behaved excellently well during the strike period; that was the railway which was the least affected; the workers showed their mettle. If the cases of some workers had been let out and had not been decided upon, I shall look into individual cases.

MR. SPEAKER: The whole dispute is whether any assurance was given or not.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I had given an assurance not only to the Southern Railway but to all the Railways.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: When we on this side seek your protection, Mr. Speaker, you should give us protection and kindly allow us to say what we have been trying to point out. Six months after the strike they are taking refuge behind the same argument. He said five thousand or something; my information is that 7018 workers are still involved in court cases. They take refuge behind that argument; they imply that these are all cases of sabotage and violence. When the Minister comes here to reply to a question, he is expected to bring the information with him. Otherwise what is the use of the Question Hour? Mr. Limaye asked him specifically. They must know how many persons are actually on trial involving charges of sabotage or violence or destruction. They reply: we have not got the information. Is this a joke or what? Sitting here, smiling? They should be ashamed. The smile will be removed from the face of Mr. Mishra if he goes on behaving like this... (*Interruptions*). I am saying this with a full sense of responsibility. If you come here to answer a question you have to respect this House and give information. Six months after the strike he does not know how many persons are involved in cases of violence and sabotage. I should like to know whether this is not contempt of the House.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I have the highest respect for the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me know what the Speaker should do in such circumstances.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The Speaker should ask them to give the answer.

MR. SPEAKER: The Speaker could have allowed a question. He has allowed a supplementary question. If there is any breach of assurance, it can be sent to the Assurances Committee. Let me know what are my powers. I want to be enlightened about my powers when a Minister does not give information.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You can pass strictures against him.

SHRI PILOO MODY: You should have done precisely what Mr. Indrajit Gupta did now.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Mr. Indrajit Gupta was not fair when he said that I have no respect for the House I have the highest respect for the House.

I have never tried to ignore the House. My colleague has given all the information that is available. But this figure as to how many have been charged with sabotage and violence is not with us at the moment. We shall come before the House next week or even this afternoon, if you so desire, and give this figure. If the figures are not there, I can certainly ask for time.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I only made some comments. Let me put my question. May I know whether it is a fact or not that several State Governments have expressed their willingness to withdraw the pending cases, but whenever our people went to them to make a representation, they said, "We are willing to withdraw the cases but the railway officers here are obstructing and saying that we should not do it"? If so, what are the instructions given by the railway ministry to the railway officers in this regard?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: I have already said that we are not going to withdraw the cases pending in the courts; the law would have its own course.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: There are hundreds of cases which have nothing to do with sabotage and violence. What about them?

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI: Out of 16700 appeals, 12,000 cases have already been decided and they have been taken back to work

MR. SPEAKER: We can have some discussion on this some time. For the last half an hour, we are on one question.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Only 4,700 appeals remain 2,500 people have not appealed at all. Unless they file their appeals, no decision can be taken. There have been cases where persons were charged with sabotage and violence, but in appeal it was found that they did not indulge in violence and sabotage and that charge was completely wiped off. So, it does not mean that we are not looking into these cases. You should appreciate that out of 16,700 appeals, we have already decided 12,000. Only 4,700 remain and they will be decided soon.

SHRI NOORUL HUDA: May I know (a) what is the total number of court cases pending against railway employees for participation in the May strike; (b) whether the Government is agreeable to withdraw cases against those for whom there are no charges of violence, intimidation and things like that and (c) whether the All India Railwaymen's Federation and the NCCRS have expressed their desire to negotiate with the Government regarding dismissal, retrenchment and other punishments noted out to the employees and if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: So far as the N.C.C.R.S. is concerned, we are not going to negotiate with them. We are not going to talk to them. As regards other organisations, that is two recognised federations, we are prepared to sit with them. So far as the striking workers are concerned, we do not think it necessary to start any meeting. In a few weeks' time or a month's time, most of the cases will be disposed of The hon. Members must realise that out of about 5 lakh cases of break-in-service, more than 3½ lakh cases have been disposed of. Individual appeals are looked into. It, naturally, takes time. That is why it has taken about 6 months' time. It is physically impossible to dispose of all the cases within a short time.

SHRI H K. L. BHAGAT: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when at his level, at the Minister's level, was the progress in implementation of the assurance that he has given in this House today and before in regard to those employees who are not involved in sabotage, reviewed and when he proposes to review it again.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: The review of action taken by the

Railway Board is undertaken every week at the Board level or at the Minister's level.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the hon. Minister tell us whether after the calling off the railway strike, new victimisation has started in the form of compulsory retirements, premature retirements, transfers, demotions, evictions from quarters, etc.?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: There has been no victimisation at all. The normal administrative action is taken against the employees.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: The hon. Minister has stated that after the Board reviews the cases, they come to the Minister for disposal. May I know if there is any time-limit which has been set to dispose of cases so that the employees heave a sigh of relief and know that they are going to be reinstated?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: First, the appeal is to be filed within the prescribed time and then there is the review at the Board level. When it comes to the Minister, the time is fixed and we have stated that the decision will be taken within six weeks.

SOME HON. MEMBERS rose—

MR. SPEAKER: Some hon. Members, Mr. Bibhuti Mishra and others sometime past said that we do less number of Questions than we used to do in the past. I examined it. I saw the practice in the past. We used to have 40 Questions. When we did not make any progress, we reduced it to 20. We are still not making much progress. I have tried to know the causes. In the olden days the member asking the question only used to ask a question and very rarely, one more member. Now, here you do not leave the question once it comes into your hands. Now, it is more than 40 minutes that I am trying to go to next question. I am not going to proceed further whether you take one question for the whole hour or more. I cannot go on arguing with every member and listen to his arguments every time. You do it, as you like—one question or more question. Why should I get agitated whether you do one question only or more questions? But, later on, do not complain that we do not do many questions.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: There are exceptions.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Kindly allow a short duration discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you have had more than that. The whole hour is spent on this.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that tomorrow, that is, on the 20th November, 1974, the All India Trade Union Congress is holding a *dharna* under the leadership of Shri S. A. Dange and Members of Parliament will also be there, as a protest against the abnormal delay in the implementation of the assurances of the Railway Minister. I would like to know from him whether he will see that all the assurances which he had given either to Shri Madhu Limaye or to this House are respected in letter and spirit and that the Railway Board officials will not be allowed to sabotage them. I want this six week's assurance to be implemented in letter and spirit. We would like to have an answer from the senior Minister.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: First of all I would appeal to Shri Dange and other leaders that it is not necessary at all to hold a *dharna*. I am very easily accessible and I am always prepared for a meeting with Shri Dange and other leaders or with the National Federation leaders. Let us have a meeting and if there are any cases as you have mentioned, we are prepared to consider. Most probably, there are no cases like that. But, tomorrow I

will not be here as I have to be in Hyderabad in connection with the inauguration of the Godavari bridge.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: What about your assurances?

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मन्त्री जी से जानना चाहता हू—तोड-फोड और हिंसात्मक कार्यवाही जिन कर्मचारियो ने की है, उनके खिलाफ ये आरोप किस आधार पर लगाये गये है, वह कौन सी एजेन्सी है जिस ने ये आरोप उन पर लगाये हैं? क्या यह बात सही नही है कि बहुत से डिवीजनो मे जो अधिकारी है, उन लोगो की व्यक्तिगत रंजिश के कारण ये आरोप उन पर लगाये गये है? इस प्रकार के लोगो की टोटल संख्या कितनी है? जिन लोगो पर ये आरोप लगाये गये थे, लेकिन उनको अदालत ने बरी कर दिया है फिर भी उन को काम पर नही लिया गया है—ऐसे कितने केसेज है?

श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी आरोप किसी एजेन्सी ने नही लगाये है आरोप उन्होने लगाये है जिनको तकलीफ पहुची है, जिनको मारा गया है, घसीटा गया है, गाडियो से उतार लिया गया है। मैने कहा है कि ऐसे केसेज की मजीद तफसील इस वक्त मेरे पास नही है। लेकिन ऐसी बात नही है कि जो बेगुनाह साबित हो गये है उनको सर्विस मे नही लिया गया हो।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय: ऐसे हजारो केसेज मै बतला सकता हू। जिनको अदालत ने बरी किया है।

श्री मुहम्मद शफ़ी कुरेशी जिनको अदालत ने बरी किया है उनको हम नही रोक सकते है। लेकिन एसे कोई केसेज नही है जहा बरी कर दिया गया हो लेकिन उनको सर्विस मे नही लिया गया हो। जिनके खिलाफ़ वायलेंस और सैबोटाज के चार्जज हैं उनके केसेज अदालत में पड़े हुए है, उनको बिद्ड़ा करने का सरकार कोई इरादा नही रखती है।

Decision to increase Ex-refinery Price of Petrol, Kerosene and Diesel

*104. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have increased the ex-refinery price of petrol, kerosene, high-speed diesel, light-diesel and furnace oil by five paise a litre;

(b) if so, the reasons and facts thereof; and

(c) whether this would affect the fares of scooters, buses and taxis again?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) The basic ceiling selling prices of these products were increased by five paise a litre w.e.f. 18-9-74.

(b) In the general price increases of petroleum products w e.f. 2-3-1974 due to steep increase in the prices of imported crude oil, the selling prices of Superior Kerosene, High Speed Diesel Oil and L. P. Gas (domestic cooking Gas) were kept at a low level, which resulted in an under-recovery of about Rs. 12.3 crores per month to the oil companies. The aforesaid increases w.e.f. 18-9-1974 were intended to partly compensate the oil companies for this under-recovery.

(c) The impact of the price increases w e.f. 18-9-1974 would be very marginal. However, State Governments are competent to fix and revise the taxi/scooter/bus fares, taking into account all the relevant factors. Enquiries made with State Governments and oil companies indicate that there has been no increase in the fares of taxis, scooters and buses on account of the recent increase in the prices of petroleum products.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: It is admitted that there is now price rise of kerosene and cooking gas etc. The reasons given are humbugs. It is stated simply that this is because of rise in crude price. There is absolutely no need to increase the price of kerosene and cooking gas and other things which are consumed by the poor people. Kerosene is a major part of the commodity which is imported from the Soviet Union.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a question, don't give the history of it; please ask a question.

SHRI D. K PANDA: At the same time only a little quantity is imported from Iran. Absolutely there is no need to increase the price of kerosene and cooking gas in view of the major import from USSR.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a question. Otherwise I am going to declare that the Question Hour is over. If you don't put a question, I will declare that the Question Hour is over.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: Because it is a by-product I want to know whether the actual cost of production of this by-product has increased and to what extent that has been worked out so as to find out by what percentage this price of cooking gas etc. has increased.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: As I have said in my main answer there have been also very sharp rise in price of crude also, from October 1973. Now, to offset the high price of crude oil there was only one alternative. That is, to realise a little more money from petroleum products so that it could make up for the loss. Otherwise it was difficult for us to meet the ways and means position because of the steep price rise in crude oil. We therefore marginally increased the price of Kerosene and Motor Spirit, LDO, FO, HSD and cooking gas. The price increase was of the order of 5 paise or 6 paise only. This is not a very substantial increase. This has given the oil companies about Rs. 84 crores in a full year, which partly compensates the marketing companies for their under-recoveries arising out of the crude cost. And therefore there is no special increase as he has mentioned. I do not know why he should think like that. We have seen to it that the prices are not very high.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: In the case of our own Indian Oil Company price of crude oil does not increase. There is absolutely no reason why the price of by-product like kerosene and cooking gas should increase.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The increase in the price of LPG is not very high. Subsequently it will be reduced.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Memorandum from Ticket Checking Staff of Bilaspur Division

*103. SHRI BIREN DUTTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry received any memorandum from the Ticket Checking Staff at Bilaspur Division;

(b) if so, salient points thereof; and

(c) reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient points are:

(i) harassment of ticket checking staff by Railway Police;

(ii) inadequacy and unsatisfactory conditions of TTEs' Rest Rooms; and

(iii) inadequate rest of TTEs at headquarters.

(c) The points raised in the Memorandum are under examination.

Recommendation of the Fuel Policy Committee on Oil

*105. SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fuel Policy Committee has suggested that the buffer stocks of oil should be kept for the emergency;

(b) if so, what are the other main recommendations made by the Committee with regard to the oil policy;

(c) which of them have been accepted by Government; and

(d) steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Fuel Policy Committee have recommended that India's oil policy should be based on an understanding of the international oil situation. It should be designed with the specific objectives of (i) reducing the quantity of oil products to be imported; (ii) reducing the total foreign exchange expenditure; and (iii) improving the security of supplies of crude and oil products required from sources outside the country.

(c) and (d). The Report of the Fuel Policy Committee is under examination.

Production of Low priced Janta Soap

*106. SHRI BIREN ENGTI:

SHRI VEKARIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lifted price control over all varieties of soap;

(b) whether manufacturers have agreed to market a standardised soap to be called 'Janta soap' for the lower income group at Re. 1/- a cake; and

(c) if so, when the undertaking was given and when the soap would appear in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The agreed price was Re. 1.00 to Re 1.05 per cake of 100 grams.

(c) The undertaking was given on 19th September, 1974; one manufacturer introduced the Janta variety of toilet soap in Delhi, Lucknow and Chandigarh areas during the last week of October and another in the Bombay area during the first week of November.

Shortage of Drugs

*107. SHRI D. D. DESAI:

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of drugs continue to be in short supply throughout the country even after steps were promised to remedy the situation;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the shortage is due to large scale cornering of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (c). No, Sir. There is no general or acute shortage of drugs. As there are about 2,300 drugs and pharmaceutical units in this country and the number of formulations manufactured by these units run into thousands, occasional shortage of certain proprietory branded preparations for which similar pretions of other manufacturers are usually available, do occur from time to time. The international availability of bulk drugs, drug intermediates and chemicals became difficult during the later half of 1973 and early months of 1974 due to petroleum crisis. This had an adverse effect on the delivery schedule of certain items which are in the canalised list. Since then the situation in respect of the imported bulk drugs, drug intermediates and chemicals has also improved. Necessary steps are taken by the Government to relieve the shortages.

Balance Sheet Submitted by Maruti Ltd.

*108. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maruti Ltd. have submitted their balance sheet to the Company Registrar, Delhi, for the year 1973-74;

(b) the total deposits collected from distributors and dealers as mentioned in the balance sheet;

(c) the loans and advances received from nationalised banks and public financial institutions as revealed in the latest balance sheet; and

(d) the names and remuneration and allowances of Managing Directors and other Directors during the year?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 2,18,91,042 has been shown under the head "dealership deposits" in the balance sheet of the company for the year 1973-74.

(c) The amount of loans and advances outstanding against the company as shown in the balance sheet of the company for 1973-74 was Rs. 1,06,07,950. The details of this amount as given therein are as follows:—

Secured loans (from Banks)	Rs 59,53,735
Unsecured loans (from sources other than Banks)	Rs. 46,54,215

A further breakdown of the sources of loans and advances is not available in the balance sheet.

(d) The Managing Director of the company, Shri Sanjay Gandhi, received the following remuneration and allowances during the year 1973-74 as per the annual accounts of the company for 1973-74.

Salary:	Rs. 48,000
Perquisites:	Rs. 3,000
Car running and maintenance expenses (approx. value as per Income Tax Rules, 1962)	
Total:	Rs. 51,000

The company has four other Dirtors namely:

Shri M. A. Chidambaram, Chairman

Shri Raunaq Singh

Shri Vidya Bhushan

Shri Kapil Mohan.

They have been paid an amount of Rs. 8,326 as travelling and conveyance expenses in 1973-74 as shown in the Profit and Loss Account of the company for the year.

Foreign Exchange requirements of Coal-based Fertilizer Plants

*109. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal-based fertilizer plants being established in the country will need any foreign exchange; and

(b) if so, the total foreign exchange needed by these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir; the total foreign exchange requirements of the three coal based fertilizer plants, being implemented by the FCI have been estimated at about Rs. 110 crores.

Agreement with Japan to set up Fertilizer Plant at Bhatinda

*110 SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL.
SHRI D P JADEJA.

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to to state:

(a) whether India and Japan have signed an agreement for setting up a fertilizer plant at Bhatinda in Punjab;

(b) if so, the cost of the project and the quantum of foreign exchanges component; and

(c) when the plant is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K R. GANESH): (a) A credit assistance of 32.9 billion Yen has been extended by Japan towards meeting the foreign exchange cost of 3 (three) fertilizer projects to be set up in the North-Western region. Out of this, credit to the tune of 11 billion Yen has been made available for the Bhatinda project, which has been taken up for implementation.

(b) The sanctioned cost of the project is Rs. 138.40 crores with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 53 crores.

(c) By October, 1977.

Work done on Apta-Dasgaon section of Konkan Railway

*111. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how much work has been done so far on the Apta-Dasgaon section of the Konkan Railway during the current financial year;

(b) how much work is proposed to be done on this very section before 31st March, 1975; and

(c) the reasons for neglecting this section of the rail link?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c). Reports of the Final Location Survey between Apta to Dasgaon have just been received and are under examination. The project has been included in the list of works to be taken up for the development of backward areas during the 5th Five Year Plan subject to availability of funds. According to the Final Location Survey reports, the project is likely to cost Rs. 13.92 crores excluding the cost of the rolling stock.

The Planning Commission had been approached for making additional funds to the tune of Rs. 255 crores available to the Railways for taking up projects for the development of backward areas in addition to Rs. 100 crores allotted during the 5th Five Year Plan for the construction of new Railway lines.

Inquiry into Flouting of Government regulations by Foreign Drug Firms

*112. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign owned drug firms in the country have flouted Government regulations and increased their manufacturing capacities beyond the licenced magnitudes;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted an enquiry into such cases; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof and the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Instances of excess production over and above licensed permissible capacity by various drug units in the organised sector including those by foreign companies have come to the notice of Government.

(b) and (c) The question of excess production by various drug units is being examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries.

Estimates of amounts for Construction of Kangra Valley Railway

*113 SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far, upto the 31st October, 1974 in the construction of Kangra Valley Railway;

(b) the original estimates of the amount to be incurred on the project and the number of times the estimates were revised;

(c) the steps taken to see that the project is completed at an early date so that the estimates are not revised further; and

(d) the revised target for the completion of the project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The overall progress made so far on the project is 61.5 per cent.

(b) The original estimated cost of this project was Rs. 3.62 crores sanctioned in April, 1969. The estimate has been revised only once and the revised cost is Rs. 6.94 crores, acceptance of which is awaited from the Beas Dam Authorities.

(c) and (d). Despite various difficulties, Railways are making all out efforts to complete the project at the earliest possible. The line is expected to be opened to goods traffic by 31st December, 1975 and Passenger Traffic by 31st March, 1976.

Drilling of Oil Wells by Sagar Samrat in Bombay High

*114. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision that Sagar Samrat will henceforth concentrate on drilling wells around the first well in the Bombay High instead of pursuing the exploratory work in the area as scheduled earlier; and

(b) by what time the fixed platform, which is an essential equipment for production of oil, is likely to be ready and by what time commercial production is likely to be taken in hand?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir; Sagar Samrat will be deployed to drill wells over the various parts of Bombay High and the adjoining structures in the Arabian Sea. The sequence of

drilling locations will depend, among other things, on the results obtained and operational conditions, from time to time.

(b) Production testing of the second well now being drilled on Bombay High is expected to commence in a few days. It is only after conducting these tests and evaluating the results and if necessary by drilling another well at a distance that ONGC can take up the question of first stage production and the necessary facilities to achieve this production, including the erection and fabrication of fixed platforms.

Dismissal/Removal/Transfer of Employees in connection with May, 1974 Railway Strike

*115. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Railway employees were dismissed or removed from service or transferred in connection with the last Railway strike; and

(b) how many of the employees dismissed or removed from service, have been reinstated with or without break in service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) (i) About 11240 permanent employees were dismissed/removed from service; and

(ii) About 950 employees were transferred

(b) Out of about 11240, on consideration of individual appeals, about 7850 ex-employees have so far been taken back to duty. The process of reviewing the cases, on appeals, is in progress. In the case of those who were dismissed/removed before participation in strike, but have been put back on appeal there will be no break in service, but for those who participated in the strike, there will be a break in service as per rule.

Reports of Study Groups on Working of Foreign Drug Firms

*116. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a number of study groups to study the working of foreign drug firms during the Fourth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether these study groups have submitted their reports to Government; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to ensure that all the reports are implemented without delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K R. GANESH). (a) and (b). Only one study group was appointed in June, 1970 to consider, *inter-alia*, progressive indianisation, remittances made by way of dividends, royalties etc. by foreign companies This group held one meeting and decided about the collection of relevant data. No specific recommendations were made by this group Government have since issued in February, 1972, the guidelines for reduction of foreign holdings in foreign majority companies and these are being followed. In addition Reserve Bank of India have

imposed certain restrictions on remittances by foreign companies. Their activities are also governed under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.

(c) Does not arise

Rise in Prices of Soap

*117. SHRI B. S. BHAURA:
SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether soap prices have risen three-fold during the last two years; and

(b) what are the prices of popular varieties of soaps at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). There is no statutory control over the prices of soaps. Prior to 19th September, 1974 there was, however, an informal price control on soaps produced by the organised sector (except the premium grade toilet soap) whereby the Indian Soaps and Toiletries Makers' Association consulted Government before making any upward revision in the prices. Increases in the prices of soaps manufactured by the organised sector were last allowed in July, 1973. In the 1st half of the year 1974 there was some fall in the production of soaps by the organised sector. Indian Soaps and Toiletries Makers' Association stated that in view of the unremunerative prices of soaps, they were unable to purchase adequate quantities of oils at the prevailing high prices. In the scarcity conditions, thus created, the soaps were selling at prices much higher than the list prices. The informal price control on all varieties of soaps has been removed from September 19, 1974 Due to improvement in availability of soaps in the market the consumer is now getting them at lower prices.

Before July 1973, the price increases were last allowed in June 1971. The Ministry used to indicate only the extent of the increases and did not fix prices of individual brands. The prices in the last two years and as at present are indicated by the illustrative list below:—

(Rs./Cake)

Variety of soap	Revised prices as from June,71	Revised prices as from July,73	Present price
Laundry (Sunlight) 150 grams	0·61	0·75	1·05
Carbolic (life Buoy) 150 grams	0·72	0·90	1·25
Toilet 100 grams (Rexona)	0·74	0·93	1·35
Lux	0·74	0·93	1·83
Janata	..	..	1·00—1·05

Amendment of M R T.P. Act according to Recommendations of M.R.T.P. Commission

*118 SHRI S M BANERJEE Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to amend Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act so as to impart mandatory character to the recommendations of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission and

(b) if so, whether all the restrictive trade practices laid down under the Act will carry penal provisions?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H R GOKHALE) (a) The scheme of the M R T P Act 1969 is that the Commission has been given mandatory powers in respect of restrictive trade practices only in all other matters particularly relating to concentration of economic power and monopolistic practices it has been entrusted with powers of inquiry and report in certain categories of cases which the Government may from time to time refer to it The scheme of the Act was clearly explained by the then Minister for Industrial Development and Company Affairs while moving for leave for consideration of the Bill in both Houses of Parliament There is no proposal to deviate from the scheme of the Act

(b) A detailed statement indicating the penalties in respect of offences for non-compliance of the orders of the Commission was laid on the Table of the House on the 12th November 1974 Under Section 50 of the M R T P Act any contravention of the order of the MRTP Commission under section 37 thereof relating to restrictive trade practices is liable to the penalties prescribed therein

Inquiry into the working of Hindustan Insecticides Limited

*119 SHRI S N MISRA Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have inquired into the working of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited, New Delhi during the last three years,

(b) if so the nature of irregularities found by Government, and

(c) steps taken by Government to improve the draw-backs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K R GANESH) (a) No Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Programme to Intensify search for Oil

*120 SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK
SHRI C K CHANDRAPPAN

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether any programme has been chalked out to intensify and extend search for oil in the country,

(b) if so the salient features thereof, and

(c) the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K D MALAVIYA) (a) Yes Sir

(b) and (c) The measures taken and proposed to be taken by ONGC for intensifying exploration efforts and for maximising indigenous production of crude oil have been included in the Fifth Five Year Plan.

The objectives enumerated in the Fifth Plan include:

(i) Establishing additional recoverable reserves of anything between 70 to 100 million tonnes of oil;

(ii) A proportionate rise in production during the Fifth Plan period and an objective to produce at the rate of more than 9 million tonnes during 1978-79;

(iii) A cumulative production of 4902 million cubic metres of gas during the Fifth Plan period as well as a production rate of 1150 million cubic metres of gas per year by the end of 1978-79;

(iv) To carry out exploratory and development drilling of 1.47 million metres during the Fifth Plan period besides intensification of geological and geophysical services;

(v) Quick development of the discovered oil fields;

(vi) Maximum utilisation of the existing production wells; and

(vii) Wider application of secondary recovery methods

Oil India Limited has taken up oil exploration in Arunachal Pradesh as well as in certain portion of Assam in addition to steps for maintaining production of crude oil at the level of 3 million tonnes per annum throughout the Fifth Plan period Efforts will be made to persuade them to exceed this 3 million tonnes to more than 4 million tonnes.

In addition to ONGC's own operations in Bombay High area, contracts have been awarded to two foreign parties for offshore exploration of the Kutch and Bengal Offshore areas.

रांची में आय-कर अधिकरण की स्थापना

1001. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रांची में एक आय-कर अधिकरण की स्थापना करने का विचार है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब ?

विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री डा० सरोजिनी महिषी) : (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

मध्य प्रदेश में अधिक उर्वरक संयंत्रों की स्थापना करने का प्रस्ताव

1002. **श्री गंगाचरण दीक्षित** : क्या **पैट्रोलियम और रसायन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए कि मध्य प्रदेश में कोरबा में एक ही उर्वरक संयंत्र है और देश के अन्य संयंत्र अपने राज्यों की आवश्यकता को पूरी करने के पश्चात मध्य प्रदेश की आवश्यकता को पूरा करने की स्थिति में नहीं है क्या मध्य प्रदेश में कुछ और उर्वरक संयंत्र स्थापित करने का विचार है ?

पैट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० आर० गणेश) : उर्वरक कार्यक्रम जैसा कि वर्तमान में पांचवीं योजना में परिकल्पना की गई है, मध्य प्रदेश में सरकारी क्षेत्र में अतिरिक्त क्षमता की स्थापना के बारे में कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। तथापि इस राज्य में गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र में कायल पर आधारित एक उर्वरक संयंत्र की स्थापना हेतु एक आवेदन-पत्र प्राप्त हुआ है। उस आवेदन-पत्र के बारे में अभी कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है।

विभिन्न राज्यों की आवश्यकताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए, उर्वरक के वितरण का कार्यक्रम बनाते समय, भारत के विभिन्न संयंत्रों के उर्वरक उत्पादन को आयातित उर्वरक के साथ मिला लिया जाता है।

Railway orders for wagons

1003. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Wagon Manufacturing Industry is sustained mainly by Railway orders;

(b) whether Railways' cut in orders and the prolonged debate on the prices formula have had a crippling effect on the industry which has been forced to curtail production to 35 per cent of its capacity; and

(c) if so, the salient features regarding the policy of Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) As far as Ministry of Railways are aware a substantial portion of the work load on most of the Wagon Building Units represents Railways' orders for wagons.

(b) No There has neither been any cut in wagon orders nor any debate with the Industry on the price formula

(c) Does not arise.

C.B.I Enquiry against Eureka Type Foundry, Calcutta

1004. SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO:
SHRI LUTFAL HAQUE:
SHRI DEBENDRA NATH MAHATA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a C.B.I. enquiry has been made against Eureka Type Foundry, Calcutta for their wrongful supplies to Railways;

(b) if so, whether any action was taken against the firm on the basis of C.B.I. Report;

(c) whether this firm made an appeal to the said Ministry; and

(d) if so, the broad outlines of the result of the appeal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SNGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The appeal has been considered at the highest level in the Ministry of Railways, but it was not found justifiable to change the decision already taken

Bye-election to Bihar Assembly

1005 SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether vacancies in the Bihar Legislative Assembly have not been filled up so far; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which bye-elections, to fill up the vacancies, are likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of the 43 vacancies in the Bihar Legislative Assembly, the Commission had notified bye-elections from 20 Assembly constituencies in respect of which vacancies were reported to it by 20th May, 1974, so as to complete the process before 25th July, 1974 to enable the returned

candidates to take part in the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections held in August, 1974. However, several representations urging postponement of the bye-elections on the ground that the situation in Bihar was not conducive to the holding of free and fair elections and that the constituencies would also be waterlogged during that period were received by the Election Commission from political parties, such as Bhartiya Jana Sangh, Bihar, President Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee, C.P.I., Bihar State Council, General Secretary, All-India Congress Committee and from Shri A. B. Vajpayee, M.P. and others. After a careful consideration of the aforesaid representations and taking into account the imminence of the monsoon, which would affect electioneering to a great extent and would even render it impossible, the Commission decided to cancel the programme for the proposed elections.

Subsequently, 23 more vacancies have occurred in the Bihar Legislative Assembly. The rolls of 16 out of these 23 constituencies have been revised and the rolls of the remaining 7 constituencies are in the process of revision.

The Commission proposes to hold bye-elections as soon as the conditions in the State have become normal, which would facilitate free and fair elections being held

Unmanned Railway Crossings in Orissa

1006. SHRI P. GANGADEB:

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned Railway crossings in Orissa; and

(b) steps proposed to be taken to avoid accidents at these crossings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) There are 1,062 unmanned level crossings in Orissa State.

(b) To reduce accidents at unmanned level crossings, the following preventive measures have been taken:—

(i) Stop Boards have been prominently displayed at the approaches to all unmanned level crossings within railway boundary on both sides of the track to warn the road-users to cross the railway track cautiously;

(ii) Whistle Boards have been fixed along the track, enjoining upon the drivers of the approaching trains to whistle as the train approaches the unmanned level crossings giving warning to the road-users about a train approaching the level crossing;

(iii) The Ministry of Shipping and Transport/State Governments have been requested to provide road signs on approaches to all unmanned level crossings;

(iv) The State Governments have also framed rules under the Motor Vehicle Act requiring the drivers of all vehicles to stop short of the unmanned level crossings and then cross the railway line after ascertaining that the track is clear on both sides;

(v) Educative campaign to spread safety consciousness amongst the road-users is also being carried out by way of appeals to automobile associations, issue of leaflets in regional language through the police authorities to owners/drivers of fast moving vehicles, publicity through the medium of All India Radio, cinema-slides, etc.

In addition, the level crossings where both road and rail traffic is

heavy and/or visibility is restricted are being converted into manned level crossings on the basis of periodical traffic census or on receipt of request from State Government/Road Authority, on a programmed basis

Effect of faulty planning on wagon building industry in West Bengal

1007 SHRI M KATHAMUTHU Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether faulty planning and indecision on the part of the Railway Board has affected the prospects of the wagon building industry in West Bengal, and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the steps being taken to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) No There has neither been any fault in the planning nor there has been any indecision with regard to placement of wagon orders on the industry in West Bengal The wagon builders in the West Bengal have orders sufficient to engage their capacity for more than two years commensurate with their current production

(b) Does not arise

Directions to State Governments to restrict transport of goods by Motor Vehicles to save Diesel

1008 SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI
SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state·

(a) whether the Central Government have recently issued directions to all State Governments to restrict transport of goods by motor vehicles for distance exceeding 500 kilometres to effect a saving of 10 to 15 per cent High Speed Diesel,

(b) whether Government have taken any expert opinion in this respect and considered all other aspects,

(c) whether this step would discourage corruption, adulteration, hoarding and profiteering in Diesel oil,

(d) whether State Governments, especially Bihar, has refrained from implementing these directions keeping in view the agitations, and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K R GANESH) (a) to (e) With a view to achieving economy in the consumption of HSD several measures were suggested to the State Governments including restrictions on the transport of goods by road beyond 500 kilometres A detailed circular in this regard was issued after consultation with the other concerned Ministries A number of representations were received by the Government against such restrictions from the various Associations of Transporters and State Governments The matter is being reconsidered by Government

Petro-Chemical Industries set up with Foreign Collaboration

1009 PROF NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) the names of the Petro-Chemical industries set up in the Public and Private Sectors with foreign collaboration,

(b) the names of the foreign countries collaborating in each case, and

(c) whether there is a proposal to start any more such industries in the Fifth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). The requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8495/74].

(c) Within the resources available and the relative priorities of the Plan, no new major progress for petrochemicals is currently contemplated in the Public Sector during the Fifth Plan period; applications for new projects in the private sector would be considered on the merits of each case and taking into consideration our national interest.

Increase in India's Petroleum Bill

1010. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's petroleum bill has shot up from Rs. 200 crores in 1972-73 to over Rs. 1,100 crores during the current financial year due to the phenomenal rise in cost of petroleum prices, and this had posed serious economic and foreign exchange problems for the country; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the past consumption of petroleum products in the country has increased at a compound rate of about 9 per cent per annum. With the severe strain on our foreign exchange resources caused by the steep increase in prices of crude oil and petroleum products steps have been taken to curb the non-essential consumption of petroleum products to the maximum extent and maintain availability during the current year at more or less the same level as last year. At the same time, the endeavour is to meet all the essential requirements necessary for sustained economic development of the country. To contain the outgo of foreign exchange for import of crude oil and petroleum products the following steps have been taken:—

(a) Efforts to maximise the production of indigenous crude have been intensified.

(b) Through various optimisation exercises the yield pattern of crude in the refineries has been adjusted in a manner to get the maximum yield of higher valued products. Product specifications have also been adjusted as far as possible for this purpose.

(c) Fiscal measures have been taken to curb the consumption of some products like Motor Casolene. Lubricating oils, bitumen etc. Price of furnace oil has also been increased to encourage switch over to coal. Steps have been taken to encourage efficiency in the use of fuel. Availability of kerosene an item of personal consumption has been reduced to the maximum extent possible.

(d) Petroleum products which are surplus to our requirements are being exported. Export of value added products has also been maximised.

(e) Import of crude oil under bilateral deferred payment has been arranged from Iraq and Iran.

Production of Fertilizers in the Current year

1011. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of fertilizers so far in the current year and how does it compare with the previous year's production;

(b) the capacity utilisation at the various units against which the production was achieved;

(c) the expected total output for the whole year and how much more will be required to be imported to meet the country's demand; and

(d) the salient features of the arrangements made for imports and the cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Production interms of nutrients ('000 tonnes).

	April-September 1974	April-September 1974
Nitrogen	510.7*	490.9
Phosphate	157.2	166.1

(*This include 13:0 from the plants at Durgapur and Cochin which have not yet stabilised.)

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8496/74].

(c) The estimated production in 1974-75 is 14:33 lakh tonnes of nitrogen and 3.63 lakh tonnes of phosphates. The following quantities of fertilizers have been planned for import in 1974-75:

Nitrogen	10.00 lakh tonnes.
Phosphate	3.50 lakh tonnes.
Potash	4.98 lakh tonnes.

(d) The information in this regard is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Inquiry into Train Accident at Kathgarh

1012. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether statutory inquiry into head-on collision between Dehra Dun-Varanasi Janta Express and stationary M-5 UP goods train at Kathgarh on 21st February, 1974 has squarely blamed the Railway staff for negligence; and

(b) if so, the action taken against those found guilty?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Cases against two railway employees have been sent to the court for judicial trials. Disciplinary action against another railway employee is also in progress.

Scarcity of Kerosene Oil in Eastern States

1013. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

SHRI R. S. PANDEY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the distress of the common people, specially in the Eastern States due to scarcity of kerosene oil; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) Because of the limited availability of foreign exchange and the steep increase in prices of petroleum products it has not been possible to meet the demand of kerosene oil in the country during the current year in full. Quotas allocated to State Governments have been cut to reduce consumption. It is likely that this may have given rise to shortages of kerosene in certain areas.

(b) From the current month, cuts applied on State quotas have been reduced to increase availability. The extent of cuts which was increased upto 30 per cent in some months has now been reduced to achieve a reduction in overall consumption of about 10 per cent only. State Governments have already been advised to have an effective system of kerosene distribution and to take suitable action against hoarding or black-marketing of kerosene oil.

चुनाव धांधलियां

1014. **श्री भारत सिंह चौहान :** क्या **विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को चुनावों में होने वाली धांधलियों के बारे में कोई शिकायतें मिली है

(ख) यदि हां, तो ये धांधलियां किस प्रकार की है; और

(ग) इन धांधलियों को दूर करने के लिए क्या कारगर उपाय किये गये है ?

विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० सरोजिनी महिषी) : (क) 1971 में लोक सभा के लिए हुए पांचवें साधारण निर्वाचन के बाद से ही जब-तब ऐसी कुछ शिकायतें प्राप्त होती रही हैं जिनमें निर्वाचनों में धांधली किये जाने के आरोप लगाये गये हैं।

(ख) निर्वाचनों में धांधली का आरोप लगाने वाली शिकायतों का संबंध इन आरोपों से होता है जैसे सरकारी अधिकारियों द्वारा सत्ताधारी दल के पक्ष में निर्वाचन प्रचार करना, मतपेटियों में गड़बडी करना, सत्ताधारी दल द्वारा शासकीय मशीनरी का उपयोग करना, निर्वाचनों के ठीक पूर्व परियोजनाओं और कल्याणकारी स्कीमों का उद्घाटन करना, मतदाताओं को अभित्रास देना और डराना, सशस्त्र व्यक्तियों द्वारा मतदान-बूथों पर कब्जा किया जाना, आदि।

(ग) विद्यमान निर्वाचन विधि में भी प्रभावकारी विधिक उपबंध हैं और इसके अतिरिक्त निर्वाचन आयोग ने संबंधित प्राधिकारियों को आवश्यक अनुदेश जारी किये है कि वे निर्वाचनों में धांधली को रोकने के लिए पर्याप्त और प्रभावशाली कदम उठाएं। इसके अतिरिक्त, 20 दिसम्बर, 1973 को लोक सभा में पुर स्थापित विधेयक में विद्यमान उपबंधों को, विशेषकर खण्ड 36 और 37 को, व्यापक बनाने के लिए उपयुक्त संशोधन सम्मिलित किये गये है जिससे कि उनके अन्तर्गत ये मामले भी आ सकें।

Applications pending with Deputy Commissioner, Delhi under Section 92 C.P.C.

1015. SHRI AMBESH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending in the court of Deputy Commissioner, Delhi under Section 92 C.P.C.;

(b) the dates of filing the above applications, separately; and

(c) if these applications have been pending for the last three years the reasons for delay in the disposal thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unmanned Railway Crossings in Goa

1016. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway crossings in Goa; and

(b) steps proposed to be taken to avoid accidents at such crossings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) There are seven unmanned level crossings in Goa.

(b) To reduce accidents at unmanned level crossings, the following preventive measures have been taken:—

(i) Stop Boards have been prominently displayed at the approaches to all unmanned level crossings within railway boundary on both sides of the track warn the road-users to cross the railway track cautiously;

(ii) Whistle Boards have been fixed along the track, enjoining upon the drivers of the approaching trains to whistle as the train approaches the unmanned level crossings giving warning to the road-users about a train aproaching the level crossing;

(iii) The Ministry of Shipping and Transport/State Governments have been requested to provide road signs on approaches to all unmanned level crossings;

(iv) The State Governments have also framed rules under the Motor Vehicles Act requiring the drivers of all vehicles to stop short of the unmanned level crossings and then cross the railway line after ascertaining that the track is clear on both sides;

(v) Educative campaign to spread safety consciousness amongst the road-users is also being carried out by way of appeals to automobile associations, issue of leaflets in regional language through the police authorities to owners/drivers of fast moving vehicles, publicity through the medium of All India Radio, cinema-slides, etc.

In addition, the level crossings where both road and rail traffic is heavy and/or visibility is restricted are being converted into manned level crossings on the basis of periodical traffic census or on receipt of request from State Government/Road Authority, on a programmed basis.

Proposal for Comprehensive and Speedy Reforms of Election Laws

1017. SHRI DHAMANKAR:
SHRI R S PANDEY:
SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in the light of recent Supreme Court's Judgement and the recommendations made by the Chief Election Commissioner and others, Government are considering a proposal to devise a scheme for a comprehensive and speedy reforms of Election Laws; and

(b) if so, the action proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) and (b). There will be adequate opportunity to take up suggestions and proposals for the Reform of Election Law at the time when the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1973, now pending in the Lok Sabha, comes up

for consideration. Government have an open mind in the matter and are thinking of holding discussions with political parties on the question of electoral reforms.

Filling up of Posts Reserved for Scheduled Caste Candidates in Delhi Judicial Service

1018. SHRI N. S. KAMBLE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) total number of posts sanctioned so far under Delhi Judicial Service;

(b) total number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and total number of reserved posts filled up so far;

(c) total number of reserved posts still vacant and reasons for not filling them up so far;

(d) whether 21 Scheduled Caste candidates qualified in Delhi Judicial Service Examination held in 1973 and if so, what steps have been taken to absorb them in the service; and

(e) whether two Scheduled Caste Judicial Officers have resigned from their posts, if so, what steps have been taken to fill up the vacant posts from amongst the qualified Scheduled Caste candidates?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) 112.

(b) Reserved 16.

Filled 16.

(c) 7 posts reserved for Scheduled Tribes are vacant because of non-availability of qualified Scheduled Tribe candidates.

(d) It is true that 21 Scheduled Caste candidates qualified in the Delhi Judicial Service Examination held in 1973. As the number of posts to be reserved for Scheduled Castes in respect of the 1973 examination was 3, only three of the qualified Scheduled Caste candidates could be appointed.

(e) Yes, Sir. The question of filling these two vacancies will be taken up after the writ petition filed in the Delhi High Court by a Scheduled Caste candidate is disposed of.

Unmanned Railway Crossings in Rajasthan

1019. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned Railway crossings in Rajasthan; and

(b) steps proposed to be taken to avoid accidents at such crossings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) There are One thousand five hundred and seventy-eight unmanned level crossings in Rajasthan.

(b) To reduce accidents at unmanned level crossings, the following preventive measures have been taken:—

(i) Stop Boards have been prominently displayed at the approaches to all unmanned level crossings within railway boundary on both sides of the track to warn the road-users to cross the railway track cautiously.

(ii) Whistle Boards have been fixed along the track, enjoining upon the drivers of the approaching trains to whistle as the train approaches the unmanned level crossings giving warning to the road-users about a train approaching the level crossing;

(iii) The Ministry of Shipping and Transport/State Governments have been requested to provide road signs on approaches to all unmanned level crossings;

(iv) The State Governments have also framed rules under the Motor Vehicles Act requiring the drivers of all vehicles to stop short of the unmanned level crossings and then cross the railway line after ascertaining that the track is clear on both sides;

(v) Educative campaign to spread safety consciousness amongst the road-users is also being carried out by way of appeals to automobile associations, issue of leaflets in regional language through the police authorities to owners/drivers of fast moving vehicles, publicity through the medium of All India Radio, cinema-slides, etc.

In addition the level crossings where both road and rail traffic is heavy and/or visibility is restricted are being converted into manned level crossings on the basis of periodical traffic census or on receipt of request from the State Government/Road Authority, on a programmed basis.

पटना जंकशन और पटना सिटी स्टेशनों का विकास करने सम्बन्धी योजना

1020. **श्री रामावतार शास्त्री** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने पूर्व रेलवे के पटना जंकशन और पटना सिटी स्टेशन के विकास के लिए कोई योजना बनाई है ;

(ख) इन दोनों स्टेशनो पर पृथक-पृथक कितनी राशि खर्च करन का प्रस्ताव है; और

(ग) निर्माण कार्य आरम्भ करने में विलम्ब करने का क्या कारण है तथा सरकार का विचार इस कार्य को कब तक आरम्भ करने का है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) : (क) से (ग). 55 लाख की अनुमानित लागत से पटना जक्शन पर कोचिंग से संबंधित अतिरिक्त पर्यन्त सुविधाओं (चरण I) की व्यवस्था का काम 1974–75 के बजट में शामिल किया गया था और यह प्राक्कलन पूर्व रेलवे द्वारा तैयार किया जा रहा है चूंकि यह काम एक अत्यन्त व्यस्त यार्ड के ढांचे मे परिवर्तन से संबधित है इसलिए इस संबध मे ब्यौरेवार जाच आवयश्क रही है ताकि यातायात के वर्तमान प्रवाह मे गत्यावरोध मे बचा जा सके। आवयश्क ब्यौरेवार प्रस्ताव पूरे हो रहे है और प्राक्कलन को अंतिम रूप देकर उसे मंजरी देते ही काम प्रारम्भ कर दिया जायगा।

पटना सिटी मे अप लूप लाइन को सामान्य लाइन मे परिवर्तित करने का काम चल रहा है।

Double Railway Track between Sawai Madhopur and Baroda (Western Railway)

1021. SHRI LALJI BHAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of putting up double railway track between Sawai Madhopur and Baroda on Western Railway; and

(b) when this project will be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI (BUTA SINGH): (a) 378 km of

double track is available on the section and work on 257 km is in progress.

(b) The work on 257 km in progress is expected to be completed in stages by 1979 subject to the availability of funds and materials.

Restoration of Trains cancelled in Cachar District of Assam due to shortage of Coal

1022. SHRI NURUL HUDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations for restoration of passenger trains between Katakhal and Lalaghat, between Karimganj and Dullabcherra and between Silchar and Karimganj in the district of Cachar (Assam) which were cancelled about a year back due to coal shortage;

(b) whether Government have plans to restore the above trains to mitigate the difficulties of the passengers; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). One pair of passenger trains each on Katakhal-Lalaghat, Karimganj-Dullabcherra and Badarpur-Silchar sections earlier cancelled for shortage of coal have not been restored in view of their poor patronisation and good availability of alternative road transport. These sections are still served by 1 pair, 1 pair and 3 pairs of trains respectively which are considered adequate. The pattern of traffic is, however, being watched and if traffic builds up, suitable augmentation of train services would be considered later.

Conversion of Trivandrum-Ernakulam Railway Line into Broad Gauge Line

1023. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work on the conversion of Trivandrum-Ernakulam railway line into broad gauge line has been slowed down due to paucity of funds; and

(b) if so, how far the work schedule has been affected and the steps taken by Government to speed up the work and complete the project in scheduled time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). There has been some reduction in the allotment of funds in the current financial year due to curtailment in the Plan outlay for the Railways. However, the work is in good progress in all the reaches on this project and all possible steps are being taken to ensure that the work is completed according to original schedule.

Trains running between Howrah and Purulia

1024. SHRI DEBENDRA NATH MAHATA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the trains running between Howrah and Purulia on South Eastern Railway;

(b) arrival and departure time of each train during the month of August 1974, date-wise, in these two stations;

(c) whether Chakradharpur-Howrah passenger train is regularly late by three hours and if so, the reason for the late running of each train in August, 1974; and

(d) the action taken in each case and results achieved so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) 315 Up/316 Dn Howrah Chakradharpur Passenger trains touch Purulia station

(b) the arrival and departure particulars are given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d). These passenger services have run late by over 3 hours into Purulia on 7 occasions in the UP direction and 9 occasions in Down direction. However the punctuality performance of these trains has not been satisfactory primarily on account of alarm chain pulling and theft of communication wires causing interruption of control working and consequent detentions enroute. Whereas avoidable detentions are being taken up with defaulting railway staff, such miscreant activities are being tackled in concert with civil authorities through coordination at suitable levels.

Statement

Arrival and departure particulars of 315 UP/316 DN during the month of August 1974

Date	315 UP	316 DN
	Extent of late running	Extent of late running
1-8-74	2'·15"	1'·49"
2-8-74	1' 5"	0'·35"
3-8-74	1' 10"	5'·50"
4-8-74	1'·30"	2'·35"
5-8-74	3'·40"	3' 6"
6-8-74	0' 38"	1'·45"
7-8-74	1' 26"	1'·49"
8-8-74	0'·45"	1'·9"
9-8-74	0'·33"	0'·54"
10-8-74	2'·25"	2'·50"
11-8-74	4'·30"	6'·19"
12-8-74	4'·35"	6'·42"
13-874	0'·49"	1'·00"
14-8-74	2'·20"	2'·46"
15-8-74	1'·20	2'·10"
16-8-74	9'·7"	12' 12"
17-8-74	3' 7"	3'·26"
18-8-74	3' 50"	4' 52"
19-8-74	0' 45"	1'·10"
20-8-74	2'·15"	3'·4"
21-8-74	1' 59"	0' 50"
22-8-74	1'·45"	0' 46"
23-8-74	1' 45"	0'·16"
24-8-74	1'·21"	0'·50"
25-8-74	1'·57"	1'·36"
26-8-74	0'·55"	0'·22"
27-8-74	1'·19"	0'·4"
28-8-74	6'·25"	7'·12"
29-8-74	1'·18"	0'·54"
30-8-74	1' 50"	1' 10"
31-8-74	1'·3"	2'·56"

Comfortable seats for lower class Passengers

1025. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is always a heavy rush of passengers in almost all the trains;

(b) whether most of the passengers prefer to travel in a bus because passengers are provided with comfortable seats there; and

(c) whether Government also intend to provide comfortable seats for lower class passengers so as to make Railway journey more attractive as compared to travel in a bus?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) There is a rush on certain popular trains during certain periods.

(b) Some passengers prefer to travel by bus to suit their convenience but it is not true that bus journey is always more comfortable than train journey.

(c) The facility of reservation of second class seats/berths have already been provided on several trains for the convenience of passengers. However, at present there is no proposal to provide cushions on seats of second class compartments in trains.

Restriction on Issue of Tickets

1026. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway fares have increased throughout India;

(b) There is overcrowding in certain fares, hundreds of passengers keep on standing in various compartments for want of accommodation throughout their journey; and

(c) keeping in view the difficulties of the passengers the reasons why Government issue more tickets than the seating capacity in a train?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) There is overcrowding in certain popular trains over certain sections.

(c) Tickets are issued subject to availability of accommodation in the trains. Persons unable to find accommodation can surrender their tickets at the station and obtain refund of the fares.

Non-implementation of Miabhoy tribunal's report on Northern Railway

1027. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether General Manager, Northern Railway has issued orders *vide* his letters, Nos. 3E|312|RLT-1969 (Adj) and 3E|315|RLT|1969 (Adj) dated 29th June, 1974 for implementation of the Miabhoy Tribunal's report w.e.f. 1st August, 1974;

(b) whether the above orders have not been implemented in Northern Railway so far; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). While a beginning has been made, the work involved being huge and stupendous, implementation will naturally take time to be completed.

सस्ता न्याय दिलाना

1028. **श्री विभूति मिश्र :** क्या विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या वर्तमान न्याय प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत निम्नतम न्यायालय से लेकर उच्च न्यायालय तक न्याय प्राप्त करना बहुत महंगा हो गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या लोगों को सस्ता न्याय दिलाने के लिए सरकार का विचार कोई योजना लागू करने का है ; और

(ग) उसकी मुख्य बातें क्या है ?

विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० सरोजनी महिषी) (क) और (ख). सामान्यतः समाज के कमजोर वर्ग और सीमित साधनों वाले व्यक्तियों और विशिष्टत. सामाजिक

तथा शैक्षणिक रूप से पिछली श्रेणी के नागरिकों को कानूनी सहायता और सलाह के लिए सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने का प्रश्न न्यायाधीश वी० आर० कृष्ण अय्यर की अध्यक्षता में कानूनी सहायता से संबंधित विशेषज्ञ समिति को निर्दिष्ट किया गया था समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर दी है जिसकी जांच की जा रही है। यद्यपि समिति द्वारा दिए गए सुझाव के अनुसार व्यापक स्कीम अभी तक नहीं बनाई गई है, तथापि सरकार ने दण्ड प्रक्रिया संहिता, 1973 की धारा 304 में और सिविल प्रक्रिया (संशोधन) विधेयक 1974 के आदेश 33 में तथा अधिवक्ता अधिनियम 1961 की धारा 7(1)(ख) में गरीबों के लिए सीमित परिमाण में कानूनी सहायता का उपबन्ध पहले ही कर दिया है।

(ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Sale of Naphtha in the Foreign Market

1029. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 1,50,000 tonnes of naphtha has been sold in foreign markets at $80 per tonne recently;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this distress exports; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to consume the entire production of naphtha in the production of fertilisers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to the naphtha offtakes by Fertilizer plants having been less than earlier applications, about 1,24,000 tonnes of naphtha has already been exported and another 20,000 tonnes is likely to be exported this month. These exports have been arranged at the prevailing market prices. Foreign exchange earings from these exports are expected to be about Rs. 13.48 crores.

(c) Efforts are being made to expedite the commissioning of new fertilizer projects nearing completion and to see that the existing projects run at maximum capacity. It is expected that the offtakes of naphtha by the fertilizer industry would improve from November onwards.

Production of Drugs to meet requirements

1030. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the drugs produced indigenously as compared to requirements; and

(b) the percentage in total production of drugs produced by the private drug industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). The value of bulk drug production presently in the country is about Rs. 50 crores, of which public sector accounts for a production valued at Rs. 18 crores. During 1972-73 the value of bulk drugs imported was Rs. 30.88 crores. The import of formulations is negligible as formulations are not normally allowed for imports except in certain special cases. The value of formulations produced in the country is estimated at about Rs. 360 crores. The share of public sector in production of drug formulations in 1972-73 was about 8 per cent.

Illegal sale of aviation fuel

1031. SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALI:
SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a regular racket of illegal sale of aviation fuel while in transit from the I.O.C. depot at Wadala to Santa Cruz Airport has come to light;

(b) whether any investigations were conducted into this matter and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action being taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) to (c). No regular racket has been reported of illegal sale of aviation fuel in transit from the IOC depot at Wadala to Santa Cruz Airport. However, suspecting some theft of its aviation turbine fuel while in transit from Wadala to Santa Cruz, IOC organised a vigil as a result of which one employee was caught red handed while unauthorisingly transfering the product from IOC tank truck to private contractor's tank truck. The employee has been handed over to the police and the matter is under police investigation. Departmental action has also been initiated against the concerned employee.

Complaint against sub-heads working in D.A.O.'s Office New Delhi (Northern Railway)

1032. SHRI MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1071 on the 30th July, 1974 regarding complaint against Sub-heads working in DAO's office, New Delhi (Northern Railway) and to state:

(a) whether investigations in the case have been completed;

(b) if so, results thereof; and

(c) action taken against the staff at fault?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The investigations are nearing completion and are expected to be finalised shortly.

(b) and (c). Appropriate action will be taken in the matter on completion of the investigations, on the basis of the facts revealed.

Collision of passenger train bound for Faizabad from Mughalsarai with truck at Railway Crossing

1034 SHRI SHIV KUMAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on 27th October, 1974 a passenger train bound for Faizabad from Mughalsarai collided with a truck at a railway crossing; and

(b) if so, facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). No such accident occurred on 27-10-1974 However, on 25-10-1974 while train No. IMF Mughalsaria-Faizabad Passenger was running between Ayodhya and Acharya Narendra Dev stations on the Faizabad-Varanasi section of Lucknow Division, it collided with a truck at manned level crossing gate No 114B/2.

As a result of this accident, 5 occupants of the truck sustained minor injuries.

Setting up of the Mathura Refinery

1036. SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Mathura refinery is again being reviewed by Government on account of the anticipated shortage of funds and the prevailing excess capacity in refineries in the country;

(b) if so, the decision of Government on the project; and

(c) how far this refinery would help us in oil refining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (c). Some discussions have been held regarding reconsideration of the Mathura Refinery project. There has, however, been no change in the investment decision alreday taken by Government with regard to the project. The work on the project is in progres and is expected to be completed by mid—1978. On commissioning, the refinery is estimated to process crude oil to the extent of 6 million tonnes per annum.

रेलवे कानून में सुधार

1037. **श्री हरि सिंह** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या वर्तमान रेल समस्याओं से निबटने के लिए रेलवे कानून मे सुधार की आवश्यकता अनुभव की गई है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो ये सुधार कब तक कर लिए जायेंगे।

रेल मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) (क) जी हां ।

(ख) इस कार्य को यथा शीघ्र पूरा करने के लिए प्रयास किया जा रहा है ।

विश्व बैंक के अध्ययन दल के साथ उर्वरकों की आवश्यकता के बारे में विचार-विमर्श

1038. **श्री श्रीकृष्ण अग्रवाल** : क्या पैट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सितम्बर, 1974 मे विश्व बैंक के एक "अध्ययन दल" ने भारत की उर्वरकों की आवश्यकताओं तथा उसकी कीमत कम करने के बारे मे उनके मंत्रालय में विचार विमर्श किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका सारांश क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

पैट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री के० आर० गणेश) :(क) जी, नही।

(ख) और (ग). प्रश्न नही उठता।

C.B.I. Enquiry against P W I., Itarsi (Central Railway),

1039 DR LAXMINARAIN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether enquiry by C.B.I. against P W I, Itarsi, Central Railway was not completed due to political pressure;

(b) whether lakhs of rupees have been misused by P.W.I., Itarsi, Central Railway; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c). The Central Bureau of Investigation (Special Police Establishment, Jabalpur Branch), after completion of their enquiries against the P.W.I., Itarsi, Central Railway, for possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, have since filed the charge sheet in the Court of Special Judge, Jabalpur on 3-10-74. The case is now *sub-judice*.

Representation of local Population in Railway Services

1040. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation is assured to the local population in the Railway's services;

(b) if so, the extent thereof in each class of Railway service;

(c) whether local population is treated on par with linguistic population; and

(d) the percentages of various language groups among Railway employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Such Statistics of Railway employees according to language groups are not maintained.

आगरा छावनी रेलवे जलपान सेवा द्वारा की गई बिक्री

1041. **श्री नाथूराम अहिरवार :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1 अप्रैल, 1973 से 30 जून, 1973 तथा 1 अप्रैल, 1974 से 30 जून, 1974 के बीच प्रति दिन आगरा छावनी रेलवे जलपानसेवा द्वारा कितनी कितनी बिक्री की गई

(ख) उक्त अवधि के दौरान वहां पर काम करने वाले जलपान निरीक्षकों के नाम; क्या है ; और

(ग) क्या 1 अप्रैल, 1974 से 30 जून, 1974 के बीच 1973 की इसी अवधि की अपेक्षा अधिक बिक्री हुई ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह): (क) 1-4-1974 से 30-6-1974 तक की अवधि में आगरा छावनी के विभागीय खान पान यूनिट की दैनिक औसत बिक्री 5600 रुपये थी जबकि 1-4-1973 से 30-6-1973 तक की अवधि मे यह 4500 रुपये थी।

(ख) 1-4-1973 से 30-6-73 तक की अवधि में श्री डी० डी० चेड्डा ने खान-पान निरीक्षक के रूप में काम किया था और 1-4-1974 से 30-6-1974 तक की अवधि मे श्री बृजेंद्र सिंह ने खान-पान निरीक्षक के रूप में काम किया था।

(ग) जी हां।

Memorandum from Tool Checkers, Kanchrapara Workshops (Eastern Railway)

1042. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received any memorandum from the Tool Checkers attached to Kanchrapara Workshops of Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, nature of such memorandum; and

(c) reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) The memorandum is addressed to the Third Pay Commission and contained demands relating to revision of pay scales and avenues of promotion.

(c) The scale of pay of Tool Checkers has been recommended by the Pay Commission after taking into consideration their duties and responsibilities and this has been accepted by the Government Tool Checkers are eligible for promotion as Mistries in Grade Rs 150—240 (AS) Rs 380—560 (RS) They can also seek transfer to clerical cadre for further avenue of promotion

Irregular supply of raw material to drug firms by I D P L and S T C

1043 SHRI SARJOO PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state·

(a) whether the I D P L and S T C are irregular in supplying raw materials to the drug firms;

(b) if so, the reasons and facts thereof,

(c) whether the S T C. had not yet supplied its 1974-75 quota of empty gelatine capsules to the manufacturers.

(d) whether Government have looked into the matter; and

(e) if so, steps taken to supply the raw materials to the drug manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). The international availability of drugs, drug intermediates, and chemicals became difficult during the later half of 1973 and early months of 1974 due to petroleum crisis. This had an adverse effect on the delivery schedule in respect of certain items. However, requirements of drug industry in respect of imported raw materials which are distributed by STC/IDPL have been by and large met in full according to their entitlement and recommendations of State Drug Controllers, except for Vitamin B-6 and Sulphaguanidine which are scarce in the world market.

(c) Gelatine capsules are imported by STC on the basis of indents placed with them by the Actual Users During 1974-75 indents were received from M/s Parke-Davis & IDPL only Orders were placed by STC in June 1974 after floating enquiries in the world market and the STC are pressing the foreign suppliers for early shipment of gelatine capsules Some quantities are being air-lifted by STC to meet the immediate requirements

(d) and (e) At present STC and IDPL have very large stocks of bulk drugs available with them which are not being lifted by the industry

निर्वाचन कानूनों के सम्बन्ध में उच्चतम न्यायालय की टिप्पणी

1044. **श्री आर० वी० घड़े :**
श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :
श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी :

क्या विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 8 अगस्त, 1974 के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के इस कथन की ओर गया है कि :

(1) अंतिम क्षणों में प्रत्याशी घोषित करने से अनावश्यक अधिक व्यय और व्यापक चुनाव अभियान होते हैं ,

(2) किसी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र से बहुमत समुदाय का प्रत्याशी खड़ा करना संशनात्मक है और जनतंत्र के लिए घातक है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ;

(ग) क्या इसको दृष्टिगत रखते हुए आगामी चुनावों में कानूनी निवारक उपाय किये जायेंगे ; यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी तथ्य क्या हैं और यदि नही, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने विभिन्न दलों के वरिष्ठ नेताओं से इस सम्बन्ध में चर्चा की है और यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी मुख्य बाते क्या है और यदि नही, तो इसके क्या कारण है ?

विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० सरोजिनी महिषी) : (क) सरकार का ध्यान निर्दिष्ट निर्णय में उच्चतम न्यायालय द्वारा व्यक्त किए गए मत की ओर आकर्षित किया गया है ।

(ख) और (ग) उच्चतम न्यायालय के व्यक्त मत का निर्वाचन विधि में संशोधनों पर विचार करते समय ध्यान रखा जायगा ।

(घ) सरकार निर्वाचन सुधारों के बारे में राजनीतिक दलों के साथ विचार विमर्श करने पर विचार कर रही है ।

Scraps seized in Hyderabad

1045. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether scraps worth Rs. 25 lakhs belonging to the Railways has been seized from unauthorised persons in Hyderabad recently; and

(b) if so, the nature of such scraps;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Railway administration as to how such huge quantity came to be passed over to unauthorised persons; and

(d) the results of such an inquiry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No. However, during a joint raid by Income Tax, Sales Tax, Iron & Steel Control, Police and Enforcement Directorate conducted at various private depots at Hyderabad & Secunderabad on 9th & 10th October 1974, some iron & steel scraps suspected to be from Railways were noticed with two fix firms of Maula Ali dealing in steel. The firms produced receipts for these materials which are under scrutiny by the Police. No seizures of property were made.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of the reply at (a) above.

Companies with foreign majority ownership in India

1046. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies in India with foreign majority ownership;

(b) the names of companies as on 31st October, 1974 having more than 40 per cent shares owner by foreigners; and

(c) the policy of Government in respect of these foreign majority companies functioning in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) As on 31st March 1973, there were 202 Indian subsidiaries of foreign companies and 538 Branches of foreign companies as defined under Section 591 of Companies Act operating in India.

(b) The information is not available in the Department of Company Affairs It is being compiled by the Ministry of Finance

(c) Government policy regarding foreign companies has been spelt out in the guidelines for administratation of Section 29 of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 issued by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

Official Languages (Legislative) Commission

1047. SHRI S C. SAMANTRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Official Languages (Legislative) Commission has been fully re-constituted;

(b) if not, how many vacancies still exist it the Commission and by what time the reconstitution is likely to be completed;

(c) what are the reasons that this Commission is considered to be at a lower position as compared to the Law Commission; and

(d) steps being taken to upgrade the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. SAROJINI MEHISHI): (a) and (b). The Official Language (Legislative) Commission has been reconstituted for a period of two years with effect from the 1st April, 1974 to the 31st March, 1976, with the following composition:—

Chairman Full-time	 1
Members	 17

(5 representing Hindi and one Member each for Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Kashmiri, Mayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu)

The post of Chairman and 10 posts of Members have not yet been filled. However, action has been initiated for the filling up of all the vacancies and every attempt will be made to fill all the vacant posts in the Commission as soon as possible.

(c) and (d) It may not be proper to compare the Law Commission with the Official Language (Legislative) Commission The functions assigned to the two Commissions are different The Law Commission is concerned mainly with the simplification of laws, consolidation of Acts pertaining to the same subject, suggesting a general policy in revising the laws, reviewing the working of the Constitution and suggesting amendments with a view to enabling the Government to implement the Directive Priciples enshrined in the Constitution, etc. For fulfilling the tasks assigned to the Commission, it consists of a retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as its Chairman and eminent Judges of High Courts, jurists etc. as its Members.

The Official Language (Legislative) Commission is mainly concerned with the evolution of legal terminology for use, as far as possible, in all the official languages and the preparation of authoritative texts in Hindi of all Central Acts and Ordinances and Regulations promulagted by the President and of all rules, regulations and orders made by the Central Government under any Central Act or any such Ordinance or Regulation. For the performance of these functions, the Commission consists of a Chairman who is generally a retired Judge of a High Court and full-time Members for Hindi and other regional languages who are retired/serving District Judges, Advocates and University teachers with proficiency in the languages which they represent in the languages which they represent in the Commission. There is no proposal to change the composition of the Commission.

Accommodation for Parcels at Delhi-Shahdra Station

1048. SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no proper accommodation for keeping the outward booked parcels at Delhi Shahdra station, Delhi Division, Northern Railway and these are left on the open platform unguarded and unattended;

(b) whether due to non-existence of this facility, several cases of thefts have taken place there recently; and

(c) if so, what arrangements the administration propose to make to ensure proper security of goods at this station?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Delhi Shahdra Station has a parcel godown which is adequate to deal with average receipts. Only on days of unexpected heavy arrivals, parcels are kept on platforms properly guarded.

(b) A few cases of thefts were reported but this could not be directly attributed to want of accommodation.

(c) Northern Railway has been directed to tighten up the security arrangements.

Seismic Survey for oil in Bay of Bengal and Kutch Basin

1049. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether seismic surveys for oil exploration in the Bay of Bengal and the Kutch Basin in the West Coast have since been started;

(b) if not, when the same is expected to be started;

(c) whether the two American Companies with whom Government had entered into contracts for the purpose, posses the requisite experience and know-how to undertake oil exploration works; and

(d) if so, the salient features of their experiences in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The constituent companies of the Carlsberg Group which have been awarded exploration contract in Bengal off shore basin have between themselves exploration experience in USA, South America and Indonesia. The constituent members of the Reading and Bates Group which have been awarded exploration contract in Kutch Offsahore, have between themselves exploration experience in Indonesia, and USA besides drilling experience world-wide.

Agreement for Import of Oil from Libya

1050. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI M. S. PURTY:
SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India would get oil from Libya;

(b) whether an agreement has been signed between the two nations at Tripoli; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (c). In accordance with the agreement concerning cooperation in the field of oil between the Government of Libya and the Government of India signed in September 1974, a Joint Committee on Oil to superwise the execution of this agreement and to encourage and develop technical cooperation between the two countries had been set up. At the first meeting of the Joint Committee held in Tripoli from October 9 to 12, 1974, it was decided in principle that India would purchase 2 million tonnes of crude oil from Libya during 1975 on terms and conditions to be specified later. India would explore the possibility of exchanging this crude oil with fertilizers.

Grivances of ex-employees of Martin Light Railway

1051. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry received any representation regarding the grievances of employees of ex-Martin Light Railway;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) the salient features are:

(i) Appointment in higher grades.
(ii) Protection of last pay drawn.
(iii) Transfer to Calcutta area.
(iv) Fixation of seniority.
(v) Provision of quarters.

(c) The employees of the ex-Martin Light Railway who were screened and found fit have been offered appointments on the various railways. All of them could not be absorbed in the same categories in which they were working in the ex-Light Railway. However, it has been ensured that all these employees get protection of their former emoluments. As the employees of the ex-Light Railway have been appointed as fresh entrants, their conditions of service for seniority, allotment of quarters etc., will be governed by extant rules applicable to employees of the same categories.

Instructions were issued to the Metropolitan Transport Project (Railway), Calcutta to consider favourably individual requests for transfer received from the employees of the Light Railway. Some of the employees have already been appointed on transfer in the Project. Individual requests from staff of ex-Light Railway for transfer to Eastern and South Eastern Railways are also being considered sympathetically.

Cases against Railway Employees in Courts

1052. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Wil lthe Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases are going on in various courts of the country against

those Railway employees who participated in the Railway strike of May, 1974;

(b) if so, the number of such cases at various Railway stations;

(c) looking into the post strike situation whether Government have decided for the withdrawal of cases like other movements; and

(d) if so, when and how?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) About 5,300 cases.

(b) Information station-wise is not being maintained.

(c) and (d). Where employees have flouted the law of the land and violated clear orders, their cases have been suitably taken up, and the law has to take its own course.

Increase in Train Robberies.

1053. SHRI JAGDISH BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the repeated occurrances of train robberies all over the country and especially in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to protect the passengers and to punish the culprits?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Such cases come within the purview of 'Law and Order', 'Police including Railway Police' being a State subject, the State Governments are taking necessary steps to control such crimes in Railway trains within the means available at their disposal by way of escorting important trains at night, shadowing suspects by armed policemen in plain clothes in West Bengal area, posting of regular beat patrols at station platforms and waiting halls, keeping surveillance over criminals and known bad characters, prosecuting criminals for specific offences and under the preventive laws.

Allotment of Indane gas agencies and Petrol pumps to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

1054. SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of 94 Indane agencies and 1047 retail outlets (Petrol Pumps) allotted upto 1971, only one Indane agency and two retail outlets had been allotted to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons;

(b) whether his attention has been invited to the comments made in para 3.116 of the Twenty First Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1971-72 and 1972-73; and

(c) if so, what further steps have been taken to put the above policy of the IOC into actual practice and what are the latest figures of such allotments to persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Tribes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Till 31st December, 1973, there was no provision in IOC's policy for reservation of its agencies/dealerships for persons belonging to SC/ST. However, from November, 1969, within the framwork of the unemployed graduates scheme, weightage was being given in selection to

members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes subject to other things being equal. Effective from 1-1-1974. 25 per cent of IOC's agencies/dealerships have now been reserved for persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Tribes. From 1st January, 1974 to 30th September, 1974, IOC have issued 18 appointment letters to the SC/ST candidates for its agencies, dealerships etc, and the situation is expected to improve further in future.

Fertilizer Factory at Paradep

1055 SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of rupee resources has complicated the difficult fertilizer situation;

(b) if so, whether Government have asked any friendly countries to meet the total cost of setting up the fertilizer factory at Paradeep; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R GANESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Employees of different categories suffered punishment due to strike on Western Railway

1056 SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees, permanent, temporary and casual on monthly rates of pay, casual on daily rates of wages, who were dismissed, removed or whose services were terminated due to May, 1974 strike on the Western Railway, Division-wise and Workshop-wise;

(b) the number of employees of each category who have since been taken back duty;

(c) the number of employees of each category who are yet to be taken back; and

(d) the reasons for delay in their reinstatement.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8497/74].

(d) Individual appeals submitted by the staff are being reviewed on case to case basis. The process is continuing, and the Administration are doing their utmost to review cases as expeditiously as is possible. Re-engagement of casual labour depends also on the work needs and resources position.

Decision to set up Fertilizer Plants

1057. SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN:
SHRI P. M. MEHTA:
SHRI SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up five fertilizer plants in the country;

(b) if so, when these plants are likely to be set up;

(c) the States where these plants will be set up; and

(d) the cost of each plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. These plants are proposed to be located at Bhatinda

(Punjab), Panipat (Haryana), Mathura (UP), Paradeep (Orissa) and Trombay (Maharashtra). The Bhatinda and Trombay (V) projects have been sanctioned for implementation; the former is estimated to cost Rs. 138.40 crores and is expected to be completed by October, 1977 while the latter is estimated to cost Rs. 111.40 crores and is expected to be completed towards the end of 1977. Of the other three projects, the Panipat and Mathura projects are expected to cost Rs. 140 crores and Rs. 146 crores respectively while cost estimates of the Paradeep project have not yet been finalised. These three projects will be taken up for implementation as soon as the financing and other arrangements are tied up.

Award of small unit contracts to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

1059. SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether suitable instructions exist for giving preference to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons in the award of small unit contracts on various Railways;

(b) if so, the total number of such contracts given in each of the Railways during the last two years, and how many of these were given to (i) Scheduled Castes, and (ii) Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) whether any preference is given in the award of contracts for bigger units also to those Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe contractors who have done well in smaller units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes. Small catering and vending units are awarded to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in preference.

(b) Information regarding the number of such contracts on each of the Railways except Eastern Railway is given in the statement attached Information regarding Eastern Railway is not readily available and would be placed on the Table of the Sabha as early as possible

(c) For contracts of bigger catering units also, other things being equal or nearly equal, preference is given to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Tribes.

Statement

Railway	Total number of contracts awarded during 1972-73 and 1973-74	Number of contracts allotted during 1972-73 and 1973-74 to		
		Scheduled Casters	Scheduled Tribes	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Central	24	4	*	4
Eastern	*	*		*
Northern	163	15	..	15
North Eastern	90	..	1	1
Northeast Frontier	7	7	..	7
Southern	55	1	..	1
South Central	70	1	1	2
South Eastern	71	2	6	8
Western	80	6	1	7

*Information not readily available.

Decision to export motor-gasoline

1060. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to export motor-gasoline in order to relieve pressure on refineries; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). Due to the accumulation of naphtha stocks caused by the reduced offtake by fertilizer units, exports for both naphtha and/or Motor Gasoline were planned. Since however, no suitable offers were received for export of Motor Gasoline, only naphtha was exported.

Availability of drugs at cheap rates

1061. SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH:

SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to make cheap drugs available to the common man in the country;

(b) the results achieved so far; and

(c) the further steps envisaged in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). The prices of drugs are statutorily controlled under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970. Through the operation of this order it has been possible to maintain the prices of drugs by and large at reasonable level. The steps taken by the Government also aim at substantial expansion of the share of the public sector in drug production and the progressive increase in the number of items for which imports are canalised through the State Trading Corporation.

(c) A scheme aimed at making available at reasonable prices essential and house-hold remedies to the rural population particularly to the people residing in remote areas has been included in the Fifth Five-Year Plan. The measures required for making common drugs and medicines available at reasonable prices to the Common man has also been examined by the Committee on Essential Commodities of Mass Consumption set up by the Planning Commission. The Government have also appointed a Committe under the Chairmanship of Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, whose terms of reference, *inter alia* include (i) to examine the measures taken so far to reduce the prices of drugs to the consumers and to recommend such further measures as may be necessary to rationalise the prices of drugs and formulations and (ii) to recommend measures for providing essential drugs and common household remedies to the general public specially in the rural areas. The Committee has yet to submit its report.

Unloading of foodgrains by F.C.I. at Mineral Siding of Kisanganj (Delhi)

1062. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kisanganj (Delhi) Railway authorities permit private businessmen to unload anything from R.C.C. pipes to potash and sulphur on the goods shed platform while F.C.I. is asked to unload foodgrains at the mineral siding;

(b) whether Government are aware that mineral siding is risky for unloading foodgrains because of the poor flooring and the presence of mineral substances on the soil and it is also expensive and causes delay; and

(c) if so, whether instructions are proposed to be given to Kisanganj Railway authorities to permit food grains unloading at goods shed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No. Foodgrains are unloaded in the goods shed and only under exceptional circumstances when the goods shed is congested are foodgrains unloaded in mineral siding after taking adequate precautions to protect them from contamination and vagaries of nature.

(b) Yes.

(c) Foodgrains are already being unloaded in the goods shed at Kisanganj.

Notices regarding reservation of posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Gauhati Refinery

1063. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gauhati Oil Refinery has started sending copies of notices of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to M.Ps. and M.L.As. of Assam and to the Members of the Parliamentary Committee for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as recommended by that Committee (Fifth Lok Sabha), in their Sixth Report;

(b) if so, from what date this practice is being followed; and

(c) if action in that regard has not so far been taken what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Instructions regarding reservations for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes issued by the Government which are applicable to posts/services under Government provide for taking the following steps for securing Scheduled Castes/Tribes candidates:—

(i) Notifying reserved vacancies to the Employment Exchange;

(ii) Advertisement of reserved vacancies in newspapers;

(iii) Intimation of reserved vacancies to the recognised associations of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Similar procedure has been prescribed also in respect of services under the public sector undertakings, including IOC, through the directives issued by the Government. Since the directive issued to Indian Oil Corporation does not require copies of notices of reserved vacancies to be sent to the M.Ps. and M.L.As. or to the Members of the Parliamentary Committee for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Indian Oil Corporation are not following this procedure

Introduction of container service

1064. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways have decided to introduce container service on a large scale to attract high-rated traffic and to improve the revenue; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Container service was first introduced in 1966 between Bombay and Ahmedabad. This service is now available on eleven routes and is being gradually expanded.

(b) The container service is a fast door-to-door service combining the advantages of rail and road transport.

The consignors load the containers of 4.5 tonne and 5 tonne carrying capacity) in their own premises. The loaded containers are carried by the railways in their specially designed road vehicles to the rail-heads. They are then transferred by cranes on to special rail wagons and carried by fast goods trains to the destination stations. At destination, the containers are transferred on to road vehicles which carry them to the consignee's premises for delivery

Since the container itself is moved from godown to godown, multiple handling of goods inherent in conventional rail transport is eliminated thereby reducing the chances of pilferage and damage. There is also considerable saving in packaging cost to the customers

Allocation of diesel oil to Punjab

1065. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government had approached the Central Government for more allocation of diesel oil to that State;

(b) if so, Central Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) quantity of diesel oil supplied to Punjab during August, September, October and November, 1974?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Punjab Government has approached this Ministry for making increased diesel allocation to the State. Supply of diesel oil is however, at present free and no State-wise quotas are being allocated. Demand of Punjab has been met in full and supplies have been increased by the oil companies to the extent required. Figures of diesel supplies are not maintained on a statewise basis.

2501 LS—5.

गरीबों को निःशुल्क कानूनी सहायता देने की योजना की क्रियान्विति

1066. श्री चन्दूलाल चन्द्राकर: क्या विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वे राज्य कौन कौन से हैं जहां गरीबों को न्यायालयों में कानूनी सहायता देने की योजना को क्रियान्वित कर दिया गया है ;

(ख) शेष राज्यों में इस योजना को लागू न करने के क्या कारण है ; और

(ग) इस योजना को देश भर में कब तक लागू कर दिया जायेगा ?

विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० सरोजिनी महिषी) : (क) यह समझते हुए कि माननीय सदस्य, न्यायाधीश श्री कृष्ण अय्यर की अध्यक्षता में गठित समिति द्वारा सिफारिश की गई व्यापक कानूनी सहायता स्कीम के प्रति निर्देश कर रहे है, उत्तर यह है कि अभी तक केन्द्रीय सरकार सिफारिशों की जांच कर रही है।

(ख) और (ग). प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Decision to start New Fertilizer Plants

1067. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to start new fertilizer plants during the Fifth Plan period when the capacity utilization of the existing plants is less than 60 percent of its installed capacity;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the under-utilization of the existing capacity and which are the plants that showed low capacity utilization; and

(c) in such circumstances, whether Government will reconsider its decision to start new ones and try to maximise the present capacity utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (c). Government have decided to establish five large-sized fertilizer projects in the public sector and one in the cooperative sector during the Fifth Plan period. While the capacity utilisation in some of the old and ageing plants as at Sindri, Alwaye, Neyveli etc. has been low, the performance of units based on modern processes has been satisfactory. External constraints such as power cuts and labour problems also contributed to overall low capacity utilisation Action, such as debottlenecking, renovation modernisation, etc., is being taken so as to imporve the performance of the operating units. The cooperation of State Governments has also been sought for ensuring adequate and stable power supply to the fertilizer units.

The strategy is to increase domestic production to keep pace with the demand for fertilizers including creation of additional capacity, as also measures referred to above to maximise production in the existing units.

Low Production of Fertilizers

1068. SHRI RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fertilizer Unit at Durgapur and other places are producing less than their targeted capacity; and

(b) if so, the causes therefor and steps taken to rectify the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). While the capacity utilisation in the old and ageing plants such as those at Sindri, Alwaye and Neyveli etc. has been low, the performance of other units based on modern process has been satisfactory. The capacity utilisation of the latter units could have been better but for certain external constraints mainly power. Several measures such as renovation, debottlenecking and modernisation of operating units have been/are being taken to optimise production.

The production at the Durgapur fertilizer plant has not yet stabilized due mainly to technological constraints. Action is under way to overcome these constraints and bring up the plant to a satisfactory level of operation

Shortage of Drugs

1069 SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHECICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the shortages of drugs have been created by foreign drug manufacturing firms in our country and larger houses and that it is also due to a great extent the policy of linking of Rs. 2 crores turnover with bulk drug manufacturing which is responsible for the shortage; and

(b) if so, what Government propose o do in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) There is no general or acute shortage of essential drugs in the country. Reports of occasional shortages of certain drugs mainly proprietary branded preparations

manufactured by Indian companies, foreign companies and large houses are received in the Ministry from State Drug Controllers from time to time. For these, similar preparations of other manufacturers are usually available. The policy of linking turn-over to manufacture of bulk drugs is being followed generally with a view to establish a firm base for the pharmaceutical industry and for its further growth. The firms with smaller turn-over are however exempted from this linkage. The availability of drugs cannot, therefore, be deemed to be connected with the policy of linking turn-over to manufacture of bulk drugs for firms seeking industrial licences.

(b) The reasons for shortage and the steps taken by Government to ensure adequate supply of drugs are indicated in the attached statement.

Statement

(1) The import plan for each financial year is drawn up in December of the previous year on the basis of the estimated demand of the country for the bulk drugs and drug intermediates imported through State Trading Corporation and the expected indigenous production. Due to the petroleum crisis the prices of drugs in the international market increased steeply and availability became difficult since October 1973. Even so STC have been able to contract for adequate quantities of various bulk drugs except Vitamins B6 and Sulphaguanidine. But in view of the difficult availability in case of a number of item early delivery schedule could not be arranged. However, adequate supplies of majority of the items have since been received and large stocks of bulk drugs and drug intermediates are available with STC and Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited. The shortfall in availability of Sulphaguanidine was made up by arranging import of Phthalyl Sulphathiazole which is a substitute.

(2) Due to unusual increase in the prices of raw material and other input costs the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices received an unusually large number of applications for allowing price increase. So far as bulk drugs are concerned Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices have been instructed to suggest interim price revisions based on increases in the prices of raw materials and inputs only. The procedure for interim price revisions for formulations has also been streamlined and the necessary guidelines issued to BICP. Drug manufacturing units with turnover not exceeding Rs. 50 lakhs per annum have been exempted from the requirement of obtaining Government approval to the prices of their formulations.

(3) Periodical meetings are held in the Ministry to review reports received from State Drug Controllers regarding shortages reported by them. Whenever instances of shortages come to the notice of Government, the matter is taken up with the manufacturers concerned and the latter advised to meet such requirements on an emergent basis.

(4) Whenever shortages occur, due to inadequate production, steps are taken to remove the bottlenecks with a view to increasing production, and when this is not possible, import licences are recommended or arrangements made for import of drugs through STC.

(5) The import Policy allows the import of essential life-saving drugs which are not produced in the country, to established importers against their quota licences.

(6) The Import Trade Control Policy also permits individuals and hospitals to import drugs required for treatment upto a monetary ceiling of Rs. 200 and Rs. 1000 respectively at a time without the necessity of obtaining a licence under the Import Trade Control regulation.

(7) In cases where the established importers' licences held by firms are not adequate for importing of the essential drugs marketed by them, *ad-hoc* licences are granted for the import of such drugs to meet the requirements of the country.

Accumulation of Fertilizers in the Plants

1070. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large scale accumulation of fertilizers in the plants in the country; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). Except in the case of GSFC, Rourkela and Cochin fertilizer plants, no large scale accumulation of fertilizers has been reported by the manufacturing units. While the accumulation at Rourkela and Cochin is said to be due to shortage of wagons accumulation of stocks at GSFC is reported to be due mainly to the severe draught conditions in the company's marketing area.

Proposal to allot Five more seats in Rajdhani Express for Baroda

1071. SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allot five more seats for Baroda in Rajdhani Express;

(b) whether the Western Railway Authorities propose to minimise the inconvenience to the passengers by allowing the Rajdhani Express to arrive on platform No. 1 at Baroda Station; and

(c) whether Government also propose to allow one person to accompany each Member of Parliament in Rajdhani Express?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SNGH) (a) There is no such *proposal under consideration* at present

(b) Platforms being nominated for Up and Down trains, reception of Dn. Rajdhani on Up platform is not operationally desirable..

(c) The matter is under consideration.

Punctuality maintained by Kalka Mail, Frontier Mail and Grand Trunk Express

1072 SHRI MADHURYYA HALDER: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) the punctuality maintained in respect of 1 Up and 2 Dn. Kalka Mail 31 Up and 32 Dn. Frontier Mail and 15 Up and 16 Dn. Grand Trunk Express during the last 6 months; and

(b) whether Government propose to withdraw surcharge levied upon the passengers of these trains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A statement showing the punctuality percentage

of 1 Up/2 Dn. Howrah-Delhi Mail, 3 Dn/4 Up Bombay-Delhi Frontier Mail and 15 Dn./16 Up Madras-New Delhi GT/AC Express for the last six months ending October, 1974 is attached.

Statement

Train number and description	Punctuality percentage during—					
	May, '74	June, '74	July, '74	August, '74	Sept., '74	Oct., '74
1 Up Howrah-Delhi Mail	Railway Strike	10 0	43 3	51·6	80 0	42·0
2 Dn. Delhi-Howrah Mail. . . .		23·3	48 4	48·4	50·0	45·1
3 Dn. Bombay-Delhi Frontier Mail .		70·0	50 0	58 0	80 0	61 3
4 Up Delhi-Bombay Frontier Mail .		50 0	70 9	87·0	83 3	83·9
15 Dn. Madras-New Delhi GT/AC Express. . . .		30·0	61 2	67 7	89 9	83 9
16 Up New Delhi-Madras GT/AC express. . . .		73 3	77 4	83·8	89·9	80·7

Armstrong Smith Limited, Calcutta

1073 SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state·

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the illegal retrenchment in and mal-administration of Armstrong Smith Limited, Calcutta;

(b) whether Government have ordered an inquiry into this matter; and

(c) if so, the finding thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) Complaints have been received alleging retrenchment of six workers in the engineering division of the company at Calcutta and mismanagement of the affairs of the company by the previous management under the late Shri G. D. Morarka

(b) No.

(b) and (c) M/s. Armstrong Smith Limited is a subsidiary of Belapur Sugar and Allied Industries Limited. The Central Government had appointed two directors under section 408 of the Companies Act, 1956 on the Board of Directors of the holding Company Enquiries made show that in December, 1973 the Board of Directors of the subsidiary Company was restructured by the induction of the two directors appointed by the Government under section 408 on the Board of the Holding Company. The new directors of M/s. Armstrong Smith Limited have been considering measures by which the engineering activities of the company at its Calcutta branch could be profitably stepped up. The present Board of Directors of

this company have engaged the professional services of a reputable firm of industrial consultants. The said engineering branch has about 30 or so daily rated workmen who had been engaged about 2 or 3 years back on a purely temporary basis. The investigation conducted by the industrial consultants had shown that there was no work whatsoever for the daily rated workmen. The Board of Directors have therefore, retrenched six such workmen who were found redundant to the requirement of the Calcutta Branch.

Production of Oxytetracycline by M/s. Pfizers

1074 SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) what is the licensed capacity of M/s. Pfizers for Oxytetracycline and what is their production during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what quantities they have made available to non-associated formulators during this period; and

(c) what was their production of formulations based on Oxytetracycline during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH):

(a) The required information is as follows:

(in Kgs).

Capacity	Production		
	1971	1972	1973
9000	29,456	36,587	39,719

(b) No quantity was supplied by M/s. Pfizers to non-associated formulators during these years. This was not one of the conditions of their licence.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Trombay Fertilizer Project

1075. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals for 4th and 5th expansion stages of the Trombay Fertilizer Project with financial assistance from World Bank, Austria and Italy are under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) total assistance offered by the World Bank and above mentioned two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (c). The Government have approved the expansion of Trombay plant in two stages: Trombay IV and Trombay V. The Trombay IV scheme envisages production of 361,000 tonnes per annum of nitrophosphates at an estimated cost of Rs. 44 crores including a foreign exchange component of Rs. 19 crores. The foreign exchange requirement of this project would be met out of the credit of $33 million, already negotiated with the World Bank. The project is scheduled to go into production early in 1977.

The Trombay V scheme envisages production of 900 tonnes per day of ammonia; after meeting the ammonia requirement of Trombay IV, the balance would be utilised for production of urea by Trombay V. The project, which is estimated to cost Rs. 111 crores (with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 28 crores) is expected to go into production in April, 1978. Originally, it was expected that this project would be financed out of credits from Italy and Austria. Taking into account the subsequent change in the availability of credits, the project presently envisages use, among others, of Austrian, Dutch and French credits.

Firms Supplying Printing Machinery and Materials to Railways

1076. SHRI TUNA ORAON:
SHRI LUTFAL HAQUE:
SHRI DEBENDRA NATH MAHATA:
SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the firms which supplied printing machinery and materials to Railways during the last three years;

(b) whether a firm of Calcutta was black listed for five years during the month of July, 1973 by the Railway Board; if so, the salient features of the complaint against this firm;

(c) whether at present Railways are purchasing printing machinery and materials without any competition amongst the firms; and

(d) the salient features in regard to purchasing of printing materials and machines by the Railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A list of the firms which supplied Printing Machinery and Materials to Railways during the last 3 years is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library See* No. LT-8498/74]

(b) No. However, business dealings with one Calcutta firm were banned for five years in July 1973 on account of their resorting to unfair trade practices.

(c) No. Railways are purchasing Printing Machinery and Materials on the basis of competitive tendering.

(d) The Railway follow the usual procedure of inviting tenders (Proprietory, Single, Limited or Advertised) depending upon the value of purchase and the nature of the item while purchasing the Printing Machinery and Materials. Items valuing above Rs. 50,000 are normally procurred through Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals.

Allocation of Amount for Jakhapura-Bamspani Railway Line in Fifth Plan Period

1077. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been provided for undertaking the construction of Jakhapura-Bamspani Rail link in the Fifth Plan; and

(b) if so, how much?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided in the current year (1974-75) which is the first year of the 5th Plan. More funds will be allotted year-wise depending upon their availability, during the subsequent years of the 5th Five Year Plan.

Running Room Facilities to Running Staff at Cost of Guards

1078. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the running room facilities are availed of by other running staffs at the cost of Guards who have to pay for that; and

(b) whether the Guards do not get the accommodation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). Running room facilities have been provided primarily for the runing staff including Guards. Certain categories of non-running staff like TTEs who perform duty in running trains have been allowed use of the spare accommodation wherever available without causing inconvenience to the running staff.

बरौनी तेलशोधक कारखाने की 'बिटूमैन यूनिट' की स्थापना

1079. श्री मूलचन्द डागा: क्या पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बरौनी तेल शोधक कारखाने की 'बिटूमैन यूनिट' बिना जांच किये ही वर्ष 1966 में स्थापित की गई थी और यदि हां, तो इसकी स्थापना पर कुल कितनी लागत आई ,

(ख) क्या 'बिटूमैन यूनिट' की स्थापना से पूर्व इंडियन स्टैन्डर्ड इन्स्टीट्यूशन तथा सैन्ट्रल एण्ड रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट से परामर्श नहीं किया गया था ; और

(ग) क्या बरौनी तेलशोधक कारखाने में 'बिटूमैन' के उत्पादन में हानि उठानी पड़ी और यदि हां, तो कितनी और कितने वर्षों तक तथा उसके लिये कौन व्यक्ति उत्तरदायी है और उनके विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० आर० गणेश) : (क) डिजायनकारों द्वारा विस्तृत प्रयोगशाला जांच करने के बाद बरौनी शोधनशाला में 'बिटूमैन यूनिट' की स्थापना की गई थी तथा आई एस आई (इण्डियन स्टैन्डर्ड इंस्टीट्यूट) के नमूनों के अनुरूप बिटूमैन उत्पादित किया गया था । इस यूनिट की स्थापना करने में 1.06 करोड़ रुपये की कुल लागत आई थी ।

(ख) पेट्रोलियम उद्योग में उत्पादों के नमूने सामान्यता नेशनल स्टैण्डर्ड इन्स्टीट्यूट द्वारा प्रकाशित मानकों के अनुसार होते हैं तथा शोधनशाला के डिजायन के लिए इन राष्ट्रीय मानकों को अपनाना एक सामान्य पद्धति है । तदनुसार राष्ट्रीय संस्थानों से परामर्श लेना आवश्यक नहीं समझा गया ।

(ग) बिटूमैन एकक का एक-एक कर परिचालन केवल परिक्षणात्मक बेचों के उत्पादन हेतु किया गया था । नवम्बर 1966 में इस एकक के पूरे किए जाने के बाद इस एकक के बेकार रहने के कारण इस एकक की स्थापना के लिए लगाई गई पूंजी पर शोधनशाला जो हानि, मूल्य ह्रास के लिए तथा बीमा व्यय के रूप में हुई है वह लगभग 5.8 लाख रुपये प्रति वर्ष है ।

बरौनी शोधनशाला द्वारा उत्पादित बिटूमैन की गुणवत्ता की असफलता जिसकी जानकारी केवल उसके मौके पर प्रयोग करने के बाद हुई के कारण बिटूमैन एकक बेकार पड़ा रहा । आई एस आई के नमूनों के अनुसार होने के बावजूद यह खराबी आप वादात्मक प्रकृति की थी और इस के लिए किसी व्यक्ति विशेष को उत्तरदायी नहीं ठहराया जा सकता है ।

Train Services between Katpadi-Tirupati-Renigunta and Pakala-Dharmavaram (Southern Railway)

1080. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the great hardship caused by non-restoration of all the train services between Katpadi-Tirupati-Renigunta and Pakala-Dharmavaram on Southern Railway; and

(b) whether steps are proposed to be taken urgently to restore all these services?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). Out of six pairs of trains scheduled to run on Katpadi-Tirupati-Renigunta section, three pairs of trains at present stand cancelled fully and one pair of trains partially. On Pakala-Dharmavaram section, out of two pairs of trains scheduled to run, one pair stand fully cancelled because of coal shortage. Restoration of these trains will be considered only when the loco coal position improves and stabilises at a reasonable level.

Plan for Expansion of Trombay Fertilizer Plant

1081. SHRI R. S. PANDEY:

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved expansion plan of the Trombay Fertilizer Plant; and

(b) if so, the broad feature thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The expansion of the Trombay plant will be effected in two stages, known as Trombay IV & V. The Trombay IV scheme envisages production of 361,000 tonnes per annum of nitrophosphates at an estimated cost of Rs. 44 crores, including a foreign exchange component of Rs. 19 crores. This is a World Bank aided project and is scheduled to go into production in early April, 1977.

The Trombay V scheme envisages production of 900 tonnes of ammonia per day at an estimated cost of Rs. 111 crores, including a foreign exchange component of Rs. 28 crores. The project is expected to go into production in April, 1978.

Former President's Views on Railway Strike

1082. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn into the criticism made by former President of India Shri V. V. Giri about the non-acceptance of President's advice to Railway Minister regarding the Railway strike;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the reasons for non-implementation of the advice of the President?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). After the strike was called off unconditionally, Government took sympathetic view of the cases and decisions taken in the matter of taking back to duty the staff whose services had been dispensed with and in the matter of condonation of break in service as a result of their absence during the strike have been in the process of implementation since then with all possible promptitude.

Setting up of More Drilling Platforms in Bombay High

1083. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up more drilling-cum-production platforms in the Bombay High Offshore where the possibilities of securing oil have brightened;

(b) if so, the number of platforms proposed to be set up and whether these platforms are to be set up with the foreign collaboration; and

(c) if so, broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) to (c). For the present ONGC proposes to instal one drilling-cum-production platform on the Bombay High structure and produce oil in the quickest possible time. It is still too premature to forecast the number of drilling-cum-production platform that would need to be installed on Bombay High structure

Movement of High-rated Traffic to Increase Earnings

1084. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board is taking several measures to step up the movement of high-rated traffic to increase its earnings; and

(b) if so, the nature of steps being taken and time when these steps will be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) The Railways have already taken the following steps which are of continuous nature, to attract high-rated traffic:—

(i) The Marketing & Sales Organisation on each Zonal Railway maintains liaison with principal manufacturers and traders to improve the quality of service, conducts market surveys and takes steps to arrest diversion of rail traffic and attract additional traffic to the Railways;

(ii) Intoduction and development of container services and freight forwarder services which provide an integrated door-to-door service.

(iii) Running of super express goods trains between important cities to a fixed time-table to provide speedy transport of goods.

(iv) Provision of "Quick Transsit Service" between important cities under which goods are carried within a fixed target time.

(v) Movement of selected high-rated commodities on higher priority.

(vi) Quotation of competitive station to station rates

Foreign Firms in West Bengal

1085. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of foreign firms in West Bengal whose terms of operation had expired on the 31st August, 1974;

(b) names of foreign firms which have applied for extension of time;

(c) what were the (i) profit repatriation, (ii) progressive dilution of equity shares, (iii) indianisation of staff and (iv) fresh investment made and employment offered by these firms; and

(d) the decision taken by Government in this matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Supply of Soda Ash to industry

1086. SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO:
SHRI TUNA ORAON:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are difficulties in the supply of Soda Ash to the industry;

(b) if so, the nature of difficulties;

(c) whether there is any control on prices and distribution thereof; and

(d) if so, the broad outlines of the arrangement made so far for its distribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b) Due to present production of soda ash being short of demand, some consumers are experiencing difficulties in obtaining their full requirements.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Train Accidents in Orissa during the last One Year

1087. SHRI P. GANGADEB:
SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway accidents which took place in Orissa during the last one year;

(b) loss suffered by Government as a result of these accidents;

(c) total number of persons killed and injured; and

(d) the amount of compensation given to the deceased?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Information about train accidents is not compiled State-wise but Railway-wise. On the South Eastern Railway which serves Orissa State, there were 96 train accidents in the categories of collisions, derailments, level crossing accidents and fires in trains during the period November, 1973 to October, 1974.

(b) The cost of damage to railway property was estimated at approximately Rs. 50,32,225/-.

(c) In these accidents 17 persons were killed and 125 injured.

(d) No compensation has so far been paid to the dependents of the deceased.

Non-Availability of Diesel for Farmers in Orissa

1088. SHRI P. GANGADEB:
SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers of Orissa are facing difficulties due to non-availability of dieasel;

(b) whether agricultural production has been affected directly due to this;

(c) if so, measures taken to provide diesel at Central rate to the farmers; and

(d) quantity of diesel supplied to Orissa during the last quarter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) There have been no reports of any shortage of diesel oil in Orissa in the recent past. In one instance there was a HSD dry out in one of the Caltex pumps and on a request from the State

Government, the demand was met by stepping up supplies from the IOC outlet.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) No allocation of diesel oil is made State wise. Sales of diesel oil from the Oil Companies retail outlets being free, supplies to states are made according to demands.

Difficulties faced by Small Scale Plastic Manufacturers in Orissa

1089. SHRI P. GANGADEB
SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether small scale plastic manufacturers in Orissa are facing difficulties due to non-availability of raw material;

(b) if so, salient features thereof; and

(c) steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) to (c) The plastic processing industry which is largely in the small scale sector in facing difficulties in procurement of plastic resins throughout the country. This is due to the fact that the indigenous production has not kept pace with the demand There is no price and distribution control on thermoplastic raw materials.

Efforts are being made to increase indigenous production and make imports to the extent possible.

Steps to Improve Efficiency of M.R.T.P. Commission

1090. SHRI VEKARRIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Member of M.R.T.P. Commission has expressed the view during the course of the discussion on prices and income policy organised in New Delhi on the 16th September, 1974 by the National Productivity Council that the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act and the Commission has proved largely ineffective in diffusion the concentration of economic power in a few groups; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to make the Commission more effective?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) and (b). On the 16th September, 1974 Dr. H. K. Paranjape is reported to have participated in a series of duscussions organised by the National Productivity Council in New Delhi. The views expressed by him were only his personal views and as such the Government has no proposal to examine such personal views.

Construction of Railway Line for Mahoba to Khajurao

1091. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the feasibility of construction of a railway line from Mahoba to Khajurao;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) if not, when the examination of the survey is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c). Provision has been made in the Budget for 1974-75 for carrying out the Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for construction of a new railway line from Mahoba to Khajurao (75 Kms.). The Railway has been asked to submit an estimate for the same. A decision regarding its construction will be taken after the survey is completed and the results thereof become known.

Loss suffered by Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Limited

1092. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Limited has sustained a loss of Rs. 38.25 crores as on March 31st, 1973;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any assessment has been made about the financial position of the Company as on 31st March, 1974; and

(d) what remedial steps have been taken to reduce the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a), (b) and (d). Necessary information has already been furnished in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2395 answered on the 13th August, 1974. However, the figures furnished under the heading 'Remedial steps taken' in respect of Profit|Loss before depreciation and interest and Net loss for 1973-74 are rectified as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1973-74
Profit (plus)|loss (—) before interest and depreciation	(plus) 367.10
Net loss	182.28

The rectification has arisen as a result of finalization of annual accounts for 1973-74.

(c) Yes, Sir. The loss incurred by the Company for the year 1973-74 and the cumulative loss upto 31st March, 1974 is Rs. 1.82 crores and Rs. 40.08 crores respectively.

Weak Financial Position of Companies in Gujarat

1093. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial position of the following companies incorporated in the State of Gujarat is very weak as per their balance sheets: (1) Santosh Benefit Pvt. Ltd. (2) Mohan Benefit Pvt. Ltd. (3) Seagull Benefit Pvt. Ltd. (4) Gujarat Saving Unit Pvt. Ltd. (5) Davita Benefit Pvt. Ltd. (6) Navjeevan Trading Finance Pvt. Ltd. (7) Kingson Benefit Pvt. Ltd. (8) Swashraya Benefit Pvt. Ltd. (9) Parul Finances Pvt. Ltd. (10) Kaithmangalam Chit Fund Pvt. Ltd.;

(b) if so, whether the weak financial position attracts the provisions of section 433 of the Companies Act, 1956 for the winding up of the Companies not in a position to pay their debts; and

(c) if so, action taken by Government to move the Courts against them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

रेल भाडों में वृद्धि

1094. **श्री भारत सिंह चौहान** : क्या **रेल मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि गत तीन वर्षों में रेल भाडो में, वर्ष वार, कितनी वृद्धि हुई ,

रेल मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) : सभी राजस्व उपार्जक माल यातायात के लिए प्रति मीटरिक टन कि० मी० वसूल की जाने वाली सांख्यिकीय औसत दर के आधार पर, पिछले तीन वर्षों मे दरों में प्रतिशत बढती इस प्रकार रही :—

वर्ष	पिछले वर्ष के मुकाबले प्रतिशत बढ़ती
1971–72	3.3%
1972–73	2.3%
1973–74 (अनुमानित)	2.6%

रेलवे कर्मचारियों को बोनस की अदायगी

1095. **श्री भारत सिंह चौहान** : क्या **रेल मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या अन्य सरकारी प्रतिष्ठानो और उपक्रमों की भांति रेलवे कर्मचारियों को भी बोनस दिया जाता है ?

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी प्रतिशतता क्या है और क्या यह प्रतिशतता अन्य उपक्रमों में काम कर रहे कर्मचारियों को मिलने वाले बोनस की प्रतिशतता के बराबर है ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह): (क) जी नही ।

(ख) प्रश्न नही उठता ।

(ग) विभाग द्वारा संचालित सभी सरकारी उपक्रम जिसमें भारतीय रेले शामिल हैं, बोनस भुगतान अधिनियम, 1965 के उपबन्धों से सांविधिक रूप से अपवर्जित हैं ।

Non-Availability of Diesel for Farmers in Goa

1096. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers of Goa are facing difficulties due to non-availability of diesel; and

(b) if so, whether agricultural production has been affected directly due to this?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) There have been no reports of any shortage of diesel oil in Goa in the recent past.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Difficulties faced by Small Scale Plastic Manufacturers in Goa

1097. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether small scale plastic manufacturers in Goa are facing difficulties due to non-availability of raw material; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH). (a) and (b) The plastic processing industry which is largely in the small scale sector is facing difficulties in procurement of plastic resins, throughout the country. This is due to the fact that the indigenous production has not kept pace with the demand. There is no price and distribution control on thermoplastic raw materials.

Efforts are being made to increase indigenous production and make imports to the extent possible.

Train Accidents in Goa during the Last One Year

1098. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway accidents which took place in Goa during the last one year;

(b) loss suffered by Government as a result thereof; and

(c) total number of persons killed and injured?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Information about train accidents is not compiled Statewise but Railway-wise. On the South Central Railway which serves the territory of Goa, there were 84 train accidents in the categories of collisions, derailments, level crossing accidents and fires in trains during the period November, 1973 to October, 1974.

(b) The cost of damage to railway property was estimated at approximately Rs. 10,63,507|-.

(c) In these accidents 16 persons were killed and 44 injured.

Shortage of Life-Saving Drugs in Hospitals

1099. SHRI DHAMANKAR:

SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of life-saving drugs in the country affecting the working of the hospitals and consequently the public health; and

(b) if so, what immediate steps have been taken to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K R. GANESH): (a) There is no general or acute shortage of drugs. Reports of occasional shortages of certain proprietory drugs for which similar peparations of other manufacturers are also available are received in the Ministry from the State Drug Controllers from time to time. The international availability of bulk drugs, drug intermediates and chemicals became difficult during the later half of 1973 and early months of 1974 due to petroleum crisis. This had an adverse effect on the delivery schedule in respect of certain items. Since then the situation in respect of these items has also improved.

(b) The following steps have been taken by Government to ensure adequate supply of drugs:—

1. Periodical meetings are held in the Ministry to review

reports received from State Drug Controllers regarding shotages reported by them. Whenever instances of shortages come to the notice of Government, the matter is taken up with the manufacturers concerned and the latter are advised to meet such requirements on an emergent basis.

2. Wherever shortages occur due to inadequate production, steps are taken to remove the bottlenecks with a view to increasing production; and when this is not possible, import licences are recommended or arrangements made for import of drugs through STC.

3. Import programme for bulk drugs canalised for imports through STC is periodically reviewed to meet the shortages.

4. The Import Policy allows the import of essential life-saving drugs which are not produced in the country to establish importers against their qnota licence.

5. The Import Trade Control Policy also permits individuals and hospitals to import drugs required for treatment upto a monetary ceiling of Rs 200 and Rs. 1000 respectively at a time without the necessity of obtaining a licence under the Import Trade Control regulation.

6. In cases where the established importers' licences held by firm are not adequate for importing of the essential drugs marketed by them, ad-hoc licences are granted for the import of such drugs to meet the requirements of the country.

Defective Equipment supplied to Fertilizer Units by Germany and Italy

1100. SHRI DHAMANKAR:
SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the press reports that equipment supplied by Italy and Germany for use in the fertilizer units has been found to be defective;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Non-Availability of Diesel for Farmers in Rajasthan

1101. SHRI SHRIKISHEN MODI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state.

(a) whether farmers of Rajasthan are facing difficulties due to non-availability of diesel; and

(b) if so, whether agricultural production has been affected directly due to this?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) There have been no reports of any shortage of diesel oil in Rajasthan in the recent past.

(b) Does not arise.

Difficulties faced by Small Scale Plastic Manufacturers in Rajasthan

1102. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state.

(a) whether small scale plastic manufacturers in Rajasthan are facing difficulties due to non-availability of raw material;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) to (c). The plastic processing industry which is largely in the small scale sector is facing difficulties in procurement of plastic resins, throughout the country. This is due to the fact that the indigenous production has not kept pace with the demand. There is no price and distribution control on thermoplastic raw materials.

Efforts are being made to increase indigenous production and make imports to the extent possible.

Train Accidents in Rajasthan during the Last One Year

1103. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) number of Railway accidents which took place in Rajasthan during the last one year;

(b) loss suffered by Government as a result of these accidents; and

(c) total number of persons killed and injured?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Information about train accidents is not compiled State-wise but Railway-wise. On the Northern and Western Railways which serve Rajasthan State, there were 232 train accidents in the categories of collisions derailments, level crossings accidents and fires in trains during the period of November 1973 to October 1974.

(b) The cost of damage to railway property was estimated at approximately Rs. 46,51,445/-.

(c) In these accidents 159 persons were killed and 192 injured.

पटना सिटी स्टेशन पर एक हिंसात्मक भीड़ पर पुलिस द्वारा गोली चलाने के कारण रेलवे को हुई हानि

1104. **श्री रामावतार शास्त्री**: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या 5 अक्तुबर, 1974 को पटना सिटी स्टेशन पर बिहार बंद के संबंध में जनसंघ नेता के नेतृत्व में हुए सत्याग्रह में पुलिस को हिंसात्मक भीड़ पर गोली चलानी पड़ी थी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पुलिस की गोलियों से कितने व्यक्ति मरे व आहत हुए;

(ग) क्या सत्यग्रहियों को तोड़फोड़ व लूटपाट से रेलों को कोई हानि हुई थी ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसके परिणाम स्वरूप कितनी हानि हुई ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह)

(क) जी हां।

(ख) पटना सिटी रेलवे स्टेशन के परिसर में गोली चलने के परिणामस्वरूप किसी भी व्यक्ति के मृत्यु या घायल होने की सूचना नहीं मिली है।

(ग) जी हां।

(घ) लगभग 7000/– रुपये।

Allotment of Book-Stalls to Unemployed Graduates

1105 SHRI LALJI BHAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether unemployed Graduates were offered Book Stalls contracts at small Railway stations which were not at all paying; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH). (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Offer of Free Land and Sleeper for Construction of Ernakulam—Kayam Kulam Railway Line

1106. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2353 on the 13th August, 1974 regarding free land and sleeper offer of Kerala Government for Ernakulam and Kayam Kulam railway line and state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision regarding this offer; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No.

(b) The offer is under consideration.

Contract with Saudi Arabia for Crude Oil

1107. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:
SHRI D. D. DESAI:
SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR:
SHRI P GANGADEB:
SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether India is considering to back out of its contract with Saudi Arabia for the purchase of crude;

(b) if so, reasons therefor,

(c) whether any official delegation was sent to Saudi Arabia in September, 1974 for negotiating a credit and a cut in price, and

(d) if so, what was the reaction of Saudi Arabian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (d). An official delegation went to Saudi Arabia in September, 1974, to explain the constraints in foreign exchange, due to which the Indian Oil Corporation was unable to lift any further shipments of crude oil during the remaining period of the current calender year under the three year contract between PETROMIN (the National Oil Company of Saudi Arabia) and the Indian Oil Corporation. Recognising

these compelling reasons PETROMIN agreed to absolve I.O.C. of any liability to lift any further quantities of crude during the remaining period of 1974. Since no further crude supplies were to be lifted during the remainder of the current year the question of negotiating a credit and a cut in price did not arise.

Suggestion made by Industrial Finance Corporation to Amend MRTP Act

1108. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation has suggested amendment of the MRTP Act to permit big business houses to take over sick undertakings in which large investments had been made by it and other Government Undertakings; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFARS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) No such proposal was received in the Department of Company Affairs

(b) Does not arise.

Retrenchment of employees under Bridge Inspector, Rajahmundry

1109. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 33 employees with 10—15 years of service under the Bridge Inspector, Rajahmundry have been retrenched from service;

(b) whether before serving notice of retrenchment, a cadre review in the Bridge Engineering Department in Vijayawada Division was undertaken; and

(c) the reasons for not accommodating the surplus workers in other vacancies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The services of 30 casual labourers with less than 10 years service and 3 casual labourers with more than 10 years service have been terminated due to completion of the works for which they were engaged.

(b) Yes, but no vacancies could be found.

(c) No vacancies were available to accommodate them as there is curtailment of works

Dismissal/Removal/Termination of Permanent, Temporary, Casual on Monthly Rate of Pay Employers who participated in May, 1974 Strike (South Central Railway)

1110. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of employees, permanent, temporary, casual on monthly rates of pay, and casual on daily rates of wages, who were dismissed removed or whose services were terminated on account of May, 1974 strike, on the South Central Railway, Division-wise, workshop-wise;

(b) the number of employees of each category, since taken back on duty;

(c) the number of employees of each category yet to be taken back, and

(d) the reasons for the delay in reinstatement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-6499/73/74].

(b) Individual appeals submitted by the staff are being reviewd on case to case basis. The process is continuing, and the Administration are doing their utmost to review cases as expeditiously as is possible. Reengagement of casual labour depends also on the work needs and resources position

Retrenchment in Engineering Department (South Central Railway)

1111 SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the Engineering Department on the South Central Railway employees in CPC scales of pay, with 20 to 25 years of service, have been given notice of retrenchment, without confirming them against any permanent posts thus depriving them of provident fund and pensionary benefits:

(b) if so, how many cases of retrenchment were there during the last three years; and

(c) what steps have been taken to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Law Commission's recommendations on trial and punishment for Social and economic offences

1112. SHRI D. K. PANDA:
SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the recommendations of the Law Commission relating to the trial and punishment for social and economic offences; and

b) if so, the steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) and (b). Recommendations of the Law Commission relating to the Customs Act, 1962 Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, Gold (Control) Act, 1968 Code of Criminal Procedure, Foreign Exchange Regulation and Essential Commodities, as were acceptable to the Government, have been implemented through suitable legislation. Those pertaining to penal laws which are sought to be implemented by the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1972 and public health which forms the subject matter of Prevention of Food Adulteration (Amendment) Bill 1974 are before the Joint Committees of the Houses. The recommendations regarding punishment for wilful failure to pay the tax assessed under the Act, making false statement in declaration abetment of false return and taking away the taxation offences from the application of Probation of Offenders Act 1958 have been incorporated in the Taxation of Law (Amendment) Bill, 1973, which is presently before the Select Committee.

Reduction in Import of Kerosene Oil due to the Planned Increase in Production of Cooking Gas by I.O.C.

1113. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation plans to increase the production of cooking gas from 70,000 to 90,000 tonnes per annum in the near future;

(b) whether this would mean reduction of imports of kerosene oil; and

(c) in view of this will it not put more strain on the availability of kerosene which is at present in short supply?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) IOC has drawn a plan to increase its LPG (Cooking gas) availability from the present estimated level of approximately 1,36,000 M. Tonnes per annum to about 3,12,000 M. Tonnes per annum by 1979-80.

(b) Increased use of LPG would effect saving in other domestic fuel. Its impact on kerosene demand and imports in particular cannot however be clearly assessed.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

New Type of Railway Wagons

1114. SHRI RAM SHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways had a successful trial of new type of rail wagons;

(b) if so, whether bulk of minerals would be transported with the introduction of these new wagons; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A new eight wheeled open BG wagon type BOY! especially designed for transport of iron ore is undergoing service trials.

(b) On successful completion of the trials, wagons of the new type would be available for transport of iron ore in bulk on the Kirandul-Waltair section of South-Eastern Railway, suitable for heavy mineral traffic, mainly 22.9 tonnes axle load with mechanical handling arrangement at the unloading end.

(c) Salient features of the new type of wagons are:—

Overall length	11930 mm
Inside body height	1175 mm
Inside body width	2924 mm
Inside body length	10990 mm
Floor area	32·2 sq. metres
Volumetric capacity	37·8 cubic metres
Axle load	22·9 tonnes
Tare	20·6 tonnes
Pay load	71·0 tonnes
Grass load	91·6 tonnes

Accidents occurred at Railway crossing on Indian Railways

1116. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents occurred at railway crossing during the last two months on the entire Indian Railways;

(b) the number of persons killed and disabled in these accidents; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to check such accidents in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) During September and October 1974 there were 21 accidents at level crossings on the Indian Government Railways.

(b) In these accidents 25 persons were killed and 50 injured.

(c) In order to reduce the incidence of accidents at level crossings, Railways have taken various measures such as provision of 'Stop Boards' to warn the road users of the level crossing ahead and provision of 'Whistle Boards' at unmanned level crossings; periodical census of traffic to determine the need for manning or upgrading of the level crossings; educative campaigns among road users through leaflets, cinema slides, announcements on loudspeaker, radio talks, personal contacts with drivers and transport associations and surprise checks at level crossings etc. In addition to providing road signs, State Governments have legislated under the Motor Vehicles Act to oblige the drivers of passenger buses to stop short of level crossings and only then cross them with the conductor walking ahead.

Proposal to attach Gaya Bogie in 2DN and 1 UP train at Gaya

1117. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start attaching Gaya Bogie in 2 DN and 1UP trains with immediate effect to facilitate the public of that locality; and

(b) if so, when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Loss suffered by Railways due to ticketless travelling during 1974

1118. SHRI BIREN ENGTI:
SHRI B. K. DAS-CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss to the Railways on account of ticketless travelling during 1974;

(b) whether Government are considering to set up special squad to check ticketless travelling and to punish the offenders; and

(c) if so, the estimated expenditure on such squad and the likely financial gain to the Railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Estimates of the loss of revenue on account of ticketless travel on the Indian Railways are not made from year to year and, as such, separate figure for the year 1974 is not available. On the basis of sample checks conducted on all Indian Railways during 1967-68, the loss was estimated to be of the order of Rs. 20 to 25 crores per annum. Subsequent checks have revealed that incidence of ticketless travel has come down noticeably. Another sample survey to assess the extent of ticketless travel on the Indian Railways is on hand.

(b) Ticket Checking Squads are already functioning on railways to apprehend ticketless travellers and no new squad is proposed to be set up.

(c) Does not arise.

Improvement in amenities consequent on increase of Railway Fares

1119. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been frequent increase in Railway fares from time to time;

(b) whether despite increase in fares, the travelling public had not been provided with proportional improvements in amenities and, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps to improve amenities and facilities on Railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The fares have been increased atleast once every year from 1970.

(b) and (c). Provision of passenger amenities is made on a programmed basis according to the availability of funds and needs of the passenger traffic. Essentially the increases made in the passenger fares are for the purpose of meeting the increasing costs of operation.

Robbery on Himachal Express

1120. SHRI D. D. DESAI:

SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE:

SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a robbery was committed on the Himachal Express near Muradnagar during the last week of September, 1974, if so, the facts thereof;

(b) the total number of robberies committed during the last three months on various railway lines in the country;

(c) whether any special steps have been taken to give protection to the travelling public;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(e) how far there has been a success in his regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes. On 22nd September, 1974 when train No. 53 Up Himachal Express started from Ghaziabad, about 8/10 criminals aged 22/25 years boarded second class bogie No. 963 and robbed 15 passengers at the point of pistol and knives and got down at Muradnagar railway station. A report was lodged with Government Railway Police, Meerut City on which the case was registered by Government Railway Police, Ghaziabad on crime No. 196 under section 395/397 IPC on 23rd September, 1974 and it is under investigations. Six persons have so far been arrested and some property also recovered.

(b) 21.

(c) and (d). Such cases come within the purview of 'Law and Order', 'Police including Railway Police' being a State subject, the State Governments are taking necessary steps to control such crimes in Railway trains within the means available at their disposal by way of escorting important trains at night, shadowing suspects by armed policemen in plain clothes, posting of regular beat patrols at station platforms and waiting halls, keeping surveillance over criminals and known bad characters and prosecuting criminals for specific offences under the preventive laws.

(e) Occurrences of robberies in trains are under control.

Plan for production of certain chemicals by Hindustan Insecticides Limited

1121. SHRI D. D. DESAI:
SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Insecticides Limited plans to take up manufacture of some vitally needed chemicals and newer pesticides by using indigenous technology;

(b) whether schemes have reached the final state of implementation;

(c) if so, broad features thereof;

(d) the total investment that the schemes will entail;

(e) whether any steps have been taken to manufacture basic pesticides and formulations of new products; and

(f) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f). A statement is attached.

Statement

In recent years, several new and sophisticated pesticides have been pressed into use in the various countries for crop protection and public health purposes. It was considered that Hindustan Insecticides Limited, which is engaged in the production of the two insecticides viz., DDT, and B.H.C. should proceed to expand/diversify its product mix, which could also improve further its profitability. For this purpose a Committee of Experts was set up in 1970 to recommend the product lines that could be taken up by Hindustan Insecticides Limited. Based on the recommendations of this Committee and also the demand of pesticides for Fifth Plan as estimated by the Task Force on pesticides set up by the Planning Commission, the following schemes have been included in the draft Fifth Five Year Plan:—

S. No.	Name of the project	Capacity	Estimated capital cost
			Rs.lakhs
1.	Endosulfan	1600 TPA	941
2.	Malathion	1800 TPA	220
3.	D.D.T.	5000 TPA	739
4.	Caustic Soda/chlorine		600
	Total		2,500

An investment decision has since been taken in regard to Malathion project and detailed cost estimates are under preparation. Feasibility report in regard to the DDT plant is expected to be ready shortly. Both these projects will be based on indigenous technology. The choice of technology for the Endosulphan project has not yet been decided.

Direct trains between Vaidyanath Dham-Deoghar and Patna, Vaidyanath Dham and Gaya and between Vaidyanath Dham and Samastipur

1122. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration any proposal to re-align the main line of the Eastern Railway in such a way that it passes through Vaidynath Dham, a major pilgrim centre of North India;

(b) whether Government have under consideration proposals to start

direct trains between Vaidyanath Dham-Deoghar and Patna, Vaidyanath Dham and Gaya by extending the train which halts at Kiul for several hours before returning to Gaya and between Vaidyanath Dham and Samastipur;

(c) whether Government have examined the alternative suggestion of providing certain through bogies from Vaidyanath Dham to be attached to trains going to Delhi, Howrah, Patna, Gaya and Samastipur; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not implementing these suggestions and proposals?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Surveys for the extension of the line from Mandar hill to Sainthia via Dumka with a Branch line to Baidyanathdham is in progress. Further consideration to this proposal would be given after the surveys are completed.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). One through coach already runs between Howrah and Baidyanathdham. Convenient connecting services have also been provided for through passengers between Baidyanathdham and Delhi, Patna, Gaya as well as Samastipur. Provision of through bogies between these latter points are neither commercially justified nor operationally feasible.

Agreement with Saudi Arabia and Iraq for purchase of Oil

1123. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE:
SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:
SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have entered into any agreements with Saudi Arabia and Iraq for the purchase of oil since the 1st January, 1974;

(b) the details of the agreement;

(c) the quantities negotiated and the price paid for Saudi crude and Iraqi crude;

(d) whether higher prices were paid for Saudi Arabian crude than for Iraqi crude;

(e) if so, the reason why; and

(f) whether Iraq has protested against the higher prices paid to Saudi Arabia by this Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (c): Indian Oil Corporation had entered into an agreement with PETROMIN of Saudia Arabia for the import of 1.1 tonnes of crude each during 1973, 1974 and 1975. Indian oil Corporation had also entered into agreements with the Iraqi National Oil Company for the import of 2.8 million tonnes of crude during 1974. It is not desirable to disclose the details of the agreements.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

Investigation in case of locomotive driver charged with throwing burning coal at B.S.F. tent on Jhansi-Manikpur Section (Central Railway)

1124. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the debate on the Appropriation (Railways) Bill on the 9th September, 1974 in Lok Sabha and state:

(a) whethre the case of the locomotive driver charged with throwing

coal at a BSF tent near the Betwah Bridge on Jhansi-Manikpur Section of the Central Railway has since been looked into; and

(b) the results of the inquiry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Railway Administration has no information of the alleged incident.

(b) Question does not arise.

रेलवे कर्मचारियों के बारे में समाजवादी संसद सदस्यों द्वारा भेजे गये पत्रों की पावती

1125 **श्री मधु लिमये :**

श्री भागीरथ भंवर :

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या हड़ताल में भाग लेने के कारण रेलवे कर्मचारियों का दमन करने/ उन्हें नौकरी से हटाने/मुअत्तिल करने आदि के बारे में उनके मंत्रालय को समाजवादी संसद सदस्यों से बड़ी संख्या में पत्र प्राप्त हुए है;

(ख) उनकी वास्तविक संख्या कितनी है;

(ग) उनमें से कितने पत्रों की पावती दी गई है और कितने पत्रों का विस्तार से उत्तर दिया गया है, और

(घ) क्या इस विशिष्ट विषय पर लोक सभा के सदस्यों को उनके पत्र की पावती के उत्तर देने की साधारण शिष्टता से भी वंचित करने की सरकार की नीति है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह)

(क) से (घ) जी हां। साधारणतया रेल मंत्री को प्राप्त होने वाले सबंधी पत्रों की पावती दी जाती है। हड़ताल से संबंधित अधिकांश पत्रों में विभिन्न रेलों के कर्मचारियों के व्यक्तिगत नाम दिए होते है। चूंकि कई रेलों पर ऐसे कर्मचारियों का संख्या काफी अधिक थी जिन्हें हड़ताल में भाग लेने के कारण गिरफ्तार किया गया था, अथवा बर्खास्त किया गया था नौकरी से हटा दिया गया था या जिनकी सेवा समाप्त कर दी गयी अथवा जिनकी सेवा भंग हो गयी थी, अतः थोड़ा-थोड़ा करके विचार करने की बजाय इस समूचे प्रश्न पर रेलो के साथ विचार किया गया था। अपील तथा प्रतिवेदनो के जरिए अधिकांश कर्मचारियों को ड्यूटी पर वापस ले लिया गया है और अधिकांश कर्मचारियों के सेवा भंग को माफ कर दिया गया है। संसद् के पिछले सत्र भर इस प्रश्न की विषयवस्तु पर काफी संख्या मे प्रश्न पूछे गये थेऔर उनके उत्तर दिये गये थे। इस विषय पर दोनों सदनो में बारम्बार बहस भी हुई थी और सरकार द्वारा निर्णय लिये गये थे तथा कर्मचारियों के संबंध मे की गयी कार्रवाई का भी समय समय पर उल्लेख किया गया था। संसद सदस्यो का पावती तो भेज ही दी जाती है, लेकिन उनके द्वारा प्रेषित ऐसे विषयों के उत्तर भेजने मे कभी कभार कुछ समय लग जाता है, जिनमें अधिक विस्तार से विवरण देना होता है।

Reservation in Kalka Mail from Delhi to Dehri on Sone and back

1126 KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state·

(a) whether no seat reservation is allowed in Kalka Mail 2DN and 1UP from Delhi to Dehri on Sone and back from Dehri to Delhi; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Reservation of berths/seats is made in 2Dn/1 Up Kalka Delhi-Howrah Mails from

Delhi to Dehri-on-Sone and back from Dehri-on-Sone to Delhi. Specific quotas for reservation of berths/seats in these trains have also been allotted to Dehri-on-Sone station in both Up and Down directions.

(b) Does not arise.

Coal-based Fertilizer Plants under Public and Private Sectors

1127. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) the total capacity of Coal Based Fertilizer Plants being established in the Fifth Five Year Plan under public and private sectors; and

(b) whether any new letters of intent for establishment of coal-based fertilizer plants are propsed to be issued in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH):

(a) 2,27,000 tonnes of nitrogen per annum each at Tacher, Ramagundam and Korba—all in Public Sector.

(b) Some proposals have been received, but no decision has been taken.

Improvement in the terms and conditions of service of Judges of High Courts

1128. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for the improvement in the terms and conditions of service of the Judges of High Courts in India; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the likely date of their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) and (b): There is a widespread feeling that the terms and conditions of service of Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court are not atttractive enough for able members of the Bar to accept judgeship. Certain proposals to improve their conditions of of service are under active consideration of Government.

Number of Railway workers who suffered various punishments, inflicted by Railway Administartion

1129 SHRI SHANKER RAO SAVANT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Railway workers who were (i) dismissed (ii) discharged (iii) demoted (iv) compulsorily retired and (v) given break in service for taking part in the railway strike of May, 1974; and

(b) what is the percentage of such punished workers to the total number of railway workers to the total number of workers who had gone on strike?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) (i) and (ii) No. of Railway employees permanent or temporary who were removed/dismissed or whose services were terminated. . . 16749

(iii) No. of reversion of striking staff officiating in higher posts for less than 18 Months 355

(iv) No. of persons compulsorily retired at the age of 55 or thereafter. . 96

(v) . . . . . 5.91 lakhs

(b) percentage of punished workers to the total number of railway workers . 1.22%

Percentage of punished workers to the total number of railway workers who had gone on strike. 2.91%

On-shore and off-shore oil drilling at various places

1130. SHRI SHANKER RAO SAVANT): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) at which on-shore, off-shore and inland places drilling for oil is going on at present; and

(b) what are the achievements of the drilling so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) The ONGC are drilling at present at 16 places on-land—12 in Gujarat, namely, Ankleshwar, Ahmedabad, Kalol, Galodhra, Petroj Nawagam, Dholka, North Surkhej, Khambel, Wara, North Kadi and Sobasan; 3 places in Assam namely, Lakwa, Galeki and Amguri, Baramuka in Tripura; Karaikal in Pondicherry; and Shumarwali Tallai in Rajasthan. The ONGC is also drilling at one location on the Bombay High structure.

Oil India Limited are continuing exploration for oil in Naharkatya, Hugrijan, Dum Duma areas and at Khaisang in the Ningru area.

(b) The ONGC have so far completed the drilling of 1117 wells on land and in the off-shore areas, as a result of which the Commission have been able to discover on land over 108.66 million tonnes of initially recoverable reserves and a litttle over 25,000 cubic metres of natural gas. The Commission have produced 33.45 million tonnes of crude oil since inception up to September, 1974.

Oil India Limited have so far drilled about 322 wells. Oil has produced 31.3 million tonnes of crude oil up to September, 1974 since inception. The estimated reserves of crude oil of OIL as 1.1.74, is 37.49 million tonnes.

Central Assistance for Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Kerala

1131. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sought financial assistance from the Centre for the expansion programme of the State-owned Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited; and

(b) if so, the particulars of the project and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH) (a) and (b). No request from the Government of Kerala for financial assistance for the expansion programme of the State-owned Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited has been received in the Ministry. The information is however being collected from other Ministries and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Insanitary condition in Kishanganj Railway Colony, Delhi

1132. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the miserable sanitary conditions in Railway Colony at Kishanganj; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). The Railway Administration is aware of the insanitary condition prevailing in Kishanganj Railway Colony. This is mainly due to the misuse of the Community latrines provided for the Railway staff by outsiders dwelling in the unauthorised Jhuggies around this Colony. Further, cows, buffaloes and pigs from outside areas, roam about in the Colony, creating nuisance.

Constant efforts are being made to improve the general sanitary condition in this Colony. The Railway Administration also proposes to provide separate bath and latrines to individual quarters, dismantling the Community type latrines, on a programmed basis subject to availability of funds. It is also proposed to creck the animals trespassing into the Colony, with the help and cooperation of Railway staff.

Profits earned by Textile Mills

1133. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of profits earned by the textile mills in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the names of textile mills which have registered profits during this period and the percentage of increase in profits of each firm; and

(c) the names of mills which have registered loss during this period and the extent of loss in each case?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) There were 783 textile companies operating in the country as on 31st March, 1972. Information about profits earned by all these companies is not readily available. However a study has been made of 133 of these companies. The total amount of profits (before tax) earned by these 133 companies for three years is as follows:

1969-70	1970-71	(Rs. in '000) 1971-72
45,38,87	52,19,19	43,39,30

(b) The names of 82 textile companies which recorded profits during all the three years alongwith the percentage of increase in profits of each company are given in Statement I laid on the Table of the House. (*Placed in Library. See No. LT-8500|74*).

(c) The names of 51 textile companies which have registered losses in any of the three years and the extent of their losses are given in Statement II.

Decrease in cases of ticketless travelling

1135. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether alongwith the decline in the number of cases of ticketless travel in the Railways over the last three years, revenue of Railways therefrom has also been falling;

(b) whether the decrease in number signifies less ticketless travel or slackness in detecting the culprits;

(c) the break-up of the number of cases of ticketless travelling detected and revenue earned therefrom during the past three years, year-wise; and

(d) the reason for slackness in efforts for detecting the ticketless travelling over these years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). There have been only marginal fluctuations in the number of cases of ticketless travel detected during the last three years upto 1973-74 and the revenue therefrom. There has been no continuous decline in this regard.

(c) The information is as under:—

Year	No. of cases of passengers detected without or with improper tickets	Fare & Excess charges realised therefrom
		Rs.
1971-72	16,65,083	2,01,31,661
1972-73	17,49,004	2,17,39,384
1973-74	16,17,222	2,09,12,731

(d) There has been no slackness in the efforts for detecting ticketless travel.

Settlement of Grievances of Railwaymen

1136 SHRI N. R VEKARIA:
SHRI D P. JADEJA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Ministry will initiate steps soon to go into the grievances of railwaymen following representations made to this effect by the various Trade Unions;

(b) if so, when the discussion is expected to start; and

(c) whether all the representatives will be invited for talks to iron out the grievances?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS. (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) Action on the representations received from various Trade Unions is always taken on the merits of the cases.

(b) and (c): Discussions with the Organised Labour are already provided for under the Permanent Negotiating Machinery Scheme and Joint Consultative Machinery and the question of associating any organisations, other than those enjoying the negotiating facilities, does not arise.

Suspension of Sub-Heads of D.A.O., New Delhi (Northern Railway)

1137. SHRI MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Quesetion No 1074 on the date 30th July, 1974 regarding suspension of Sub-Heads of D.A.O., New Delhi (Northern Railway) and to state:

(a) whether the disciplinary proceedings have been finalised; and

(b) if so, result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of Cooking Gas

1138 SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI BIRENDAR SINGH RAO:
SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:
SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of cooking gas in the country at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the demand for cooking gas in the country;

(d) the number of gas cylinders needed to meet the demand; and

(e) what steps are being taken to meet the shortage of cooking gas?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b): Except for sporadic temporary shortages for reasons beyond their control, IOC and HPC are largely able to meet the gas refill requirements of their existing customers. There was however, shortfall in refill supplies by Burmah-Shell and Caltex to their existing consumers due to the reduced crude throughout in their refineries, since July 1974. The position has, however, since improved due to a redistribution of markets arranged and a comparative improvement in crude availability for their refineries. No new customers are, however, being enrolled by Burmah-Shell and Caltex.

(c) and (d). The present demand for new connections and introduction of LPG (cooking gas) marketing in new towns is far in ecess of the production and marketing capacity of the oil companies. During 1974-75, LPG sales are, estimated at 300,000 tonnes. Oil Companies including their distributers have at present approximately 32.47 lakh cylinders which are adequate to meet the demand of their existing customers. Additional cylinders availability during 1974-75 will also be adequate to meet the above sales target.

(e). Efforts are being made by IOC to maximise the production of LPG from refineries and to expand marketing facilities for its full utilisation. The marketing facilities for LPG require setting up of special storage tanks at refineries and bottling locations, transport arrangements for movement in bulk, bottling facilities, additional cylinders and valves as well as a distributor net-work with proper storage facilities and trained staff. A plan in this regard has already been drawn up by the IOC. In order to meet the requirement of cylinders, 5,000 tonnes of steel was imported by IOC in 1973-74 and the same quantity is planned for import during the current year. This will meet the requirements of IOC's expansion programmes in full upto 1975-76.

New Railway lines in Fifth Five Year Plan

1139. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Railway lines included in the Fifth Five Year Plan;

(b) the time by which the new Railway lines will start working; and

(c) the estimated cost of the new Railway lines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) to (c). The proposals for construction of new Railway lines to be taken up during Fifth Five Year Plan have not yet been finalised. However, the following new railway lines have been approved and included in the annual plan (1974-75). Their estimated cost and target date of completion

have been indicated against each of them:

S. No.	Name of Project	Estimated cost (Rs. in crores)	Target date of opening
1.	Rohtak—Bhiwani (BG)	6 13	March, 1979
2.	Hasanpur—Sakri (MG)	5 96	March, 1978
3.	BG rail links to Ramnagar & Kathgodam from Moradabad and Rampur	15 00	March, 1979
4.	Jhanjharpur—Laukaha Bazar (MG)	2 93	April, 1976
5.	Bibinagar—Nadikude (BG)	13 47	1-4-1979
6.	Banspani—Jakhapura (BG)	39 00	1-4-1980

Shortage of Diesel and Kerosene Oil

1140. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of Diesel and Kerosene Oil all over the country whereas all these items are freely available in the market on higher price;

(b) whether Government have taken any step to meet the shortage; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OFF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a). there have been no reports of any diesel oil shortage in the country in the recent past. Kerosene oil allocations to States have however, been cut to reduce consumption. It is likely that this may have given rise to shortage of kerosene in certain areas. Sufficient powers have been delegated to the State Governments to check any hoarding and black-marketing of these products.

(b) and (c). Although State Governments have been advised to take various measures to achieve economy in the consumption of diesel oil, its availability is at present free and the current demands in all the States are being met in full.

From the current month cuts applied on the State quotas of kerosene oil have also been reduced to increase availability. The extent of cuts which was increased upto 30 per cent in some months has now been reduced, to achieve a reduction in overall consumption by about 10 per cent only. State Governments have already been advised to have an effective system of kerosene distribution and take suitable action against hoarding or black marketing of kerosene oil.

Supply of Coal beyond Mughal Sarai

1141. SHRI S M BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether supply of coal beyond Mughal Sarai has not yet improved because of the inadequate supply of wagons; and

(b) if so, what positive steps have been taken to provide more wagons for supplying coal beyond Mughal Sarai?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Changes in the Representation of People Act

1142. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what further steps have been taken to bring about certain changes in the Representation of Peoples' Act; and

(b) whether the suggestions made by the Joint Committee of Parliament are likely to be embodied in the form of amendments to this Act and if not, the reason for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI):

(a) and (b). The suggestions made by the Joint Committee of Parliament in so far as they were found acceptable have been given effect to in the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1973, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 20th December, 1973 As far further steps to bring about any other changes, the appropriate stage would be at the time when the aforesaid Bill is taken up for consideration in the Lok Sabha; Government have an open mind in the matter.

Manufacture and marketing of Janta Soap by Hindustan Lever Limited

1143. SHRI S M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for granting permission for manufacture and marketing of Janta Soap alongwith Lifebuoy, Lux and Rexona to M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited, a foreign subsidiary;

(b) whether he has considered the need for getting all soaps of mass consumption marketed by the organised sector certified by I.S.I.; and

(c) the reasons for allowing the manufacture and marketing of so-called premium soaps with international brand names simply to enable the Hindustan Lever Limited to earn still more profits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K R. GANESH):

(a) With the lifting of informal price control on soaps manufactured by the organised sector and according to the arrangements for maximising production of soaps with a view to remove scarcity in their availability, the soap manufacturers in the organised sector including M/s Hindustan Lever are, *inter-alia*, required also to produce Janta variety toilet soap.

(b) ISI certification scheme is a voluntary one.

(c) M/s. Hindustan Level Ltd. have been producing these brands of soap for the past so many years and no royalty is paid to foreign principals for the use of these brand names.

Conversion of Delhi-Shahdara-Saharanpur Light Railway into Broad Gauge Line

1144. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:
SHRI HARI SINGH:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work has already started to convert the Delhi-Shahdara-Saharanpur Light Railway to broad gauge;

(b) if not, the reason for this abnormal delay; and

(c) what amount has been sanctioned for this during the current year and when the work is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The cost of the project is being shared equally by the Railways and the State Government of U.P. Rs. 21 lakhs have been provided for this work in the Railway Budget for the current, financial year, whereas U.P. State Government have agreed to contribute Rs. 2 crores out of which Rs. 1 crore have already been made available to the Railways. The project is expected to be completed by April, 1978.

Withdrawal of Victimisation Cases Against Office Bearers of All India Loco Running Staff Association over Western Railway

1145. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the General strike of May, 1974 certain office bearers of All India Loco Running Staff Association were also arrested under MISA and had been removed from service over Western Railway;

(b) if so, the names of such employees with stations and designation;

(c) whether Government had announced that it would not victimise the Railwaymen who participated in the strike and had not indulged in sabotage; and

(d) whether the employees have not been taken back on duty and cases of victimisation have not been withdrawn and if so, the reasons in each case; and what action Government are considering to withdraw cases of victimisation and also how much time will Government take in finalising these cases?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) and (b): Any railway employee who, during the strike of May, 1974, flouted the law of the land and violated clear orders, has been suitably taken up under the provisions of the law. The All India Loco Running Staff Association not being recognised by the Administration, the information, as regards the office bearers of this association, who may have been arrested under MISA, cannot be given.

(c) to (e). No railway employee is victimised if he acts within the limits of the law of the land. However, court cases instituted against railway employees for various offences committed by them will have to go through the process of law and the law will take its own course; it is not possible to give any time limit for the same.

Modification of Election Laws

1146 SHRI S. N. MISRA. Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have modified the election law recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken the views of the opposition parties before a final decision in the modification of election laws; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 was amended by Ordinance No. 13 of 1974 in view of the recent judgment of the Supreme Court in the case of Kanwarlal Gupta Vs. Amar Nath Chawla and others which had given a wider interpretation to the expression "incurred or authorized" so as to include within its scope expenses incurred not only by the candidate or his election agents, but also by a political party. By the amendment effected by the said Ordinance, the intention underlying section 77 of the Act has been clarified by providing that in computing the maximum amount under that section, any expenditure incurred or authorised by any other person or body of persons or political parties should not be taken into account, since otherwise candidates who had fought elections on the basis of the provisions as then understood in the light of earlier judicial decisions would have suffered undeserved hardship.

(c) No, Sir. However, Government are thinking of holding a meeting with the leaders of major political parties to discuss electoral reforms, including measures to cut down election expenses.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

Statement of Minister of Supply and Rehabilitation on changes in Electoral System

1147. SHRI S. N. MISRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Minister for Supply and Rehabilitation has stated in Poona that suitable changes in Electoral system with simultaneous changes in the constitutional frame-work are likely to be made;

(b) if so, the nature of changes likely to be made; and

(c) the time by which Electoral system will be changed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI):

(a) to (c). The question presumably relates to a technical discussion in the 'Symposium on Future of Indian Democracy', organised by the Academy of Political and Social Studies in Poona on the 19th October at the S. P. College, in which Shri R. K. Khadilkar, Union Minister for Supply and Rehabilitation, was participating as its President. It is not uncommon on such ocassions that questions of academic interest are posed and speakers express opinions thereon in their individual capacities. Even so, in the present case, it would seem that certain observations made by the Minister have been quoted out of context so as to create an impression that the Minister was giving the views of the Government on any aspect concerning "suitable changes in electoral system with simultaneous changes in the Constitutional frame work".

It may, however, be mentioned that a Bill to amend the Election Law, namely, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1973 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 20th December, 1973, and is pending in the House.

Restoration of full quota of kerosene oil to States

1148. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has restored full supply of kerosene oil to the States;

(b) if so, from which month;

(c) whether some States are still facing acute shortage of kerosene; and

(d) if so, the demand of each State and the extent of present shortage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) to (d). Although kerosene quotas to the States have been increased from November onwards, they have not been restored in full. Some economy in the consumption of petroleum products, particularly kerosene which is an item of personal consumption is necessary in view of the heavy burden placed on country's foreign exchange resources for import of petroleum products at steeply increased prices. In the past kerosene quotas to the States were reduced in some months by as much as 30 per cent. In November, State quotas have been fixed in such a manner, as to achieve a reduction in overall consumption to the extent of only about 10 per cent. States consuming small quantities of kerosene, below 500 tones per annum are, however, subjected to no cuts in their monthly quotas. Cuts in allocation to the other States are determined after giving due consideration to the extent of electrification and availability of other alternative fuel in the the States. No state has been subject to a cut of more than 15 per cent.

World Oil Meet at Baghdad

1149. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India attended the world oil meet held at Baghdad in October, 1974;

(b) if so, how many countries attended; and

(c) broad outlines of the subjects discussed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) An international seminar on oil and raw materials was held at Baghdad from 1st to 4th November, 1974 for which Minister of Petroleum & Chemicals and a representative of Indian Oil Corporation were invited. However, Minister of Petroleum & Chemicals had expressed his inability to attend. The Managing Director of the Indian Oil Corporation (Marketing Division) had participated in the said seminar as a representative of IOC.

(b) and (c). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Progress in oil drilling at Bakultala in West Bengal

1150. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in drilling for oil at Bakultala in 24 Parganas District of West Bengal; and

(b) when Government expect the first well to be ready?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (Shri C. P. MAJHI): (a) and (b). The land for the purpose has been acquired. Civil construction and other preliminary arrangements are in hand to take up drilling at Bakultala by about March 1975.

इलाहाबाद हाई कोर्ट की न्याय पीठें झांसी और मेरठ में स्थापित करने का निर्णय

1151. **श्री हरि सिंह :** क्या **विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने इलाहाबाद हाई कोर्ट की न्याय पीठें उत्तर प्रदेश के झांसी और मेरठ नगरों में स्थापित करने के बारे में निर्णय कर लिया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन न्याय पीठों को कब तक स्थापित किया जायेगा।

विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री (श्री एच० आर० गोखले):

(क) जी नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता

उच्च न्यायालयों तथा उच्चतम न्यायालय में निर्णयाधीन पड़े मामले

1152. **श्री हरी सिंह :**
श्री चन्दुलाल चन्द्राकर : क्या **विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उच्चतम न्यायालय द्वारा एक वर्ष में औसतन कितने मामले निपटाये गये ;

(ख) क्या इस धीमी गति को देखते हुए उच्चतम न्यायालय में निर्णयाधीन पड़े मामले को एक न्यायोचित अवधि तक ही निपटा दिया जायेगा ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो क्या सरकार का विचार निर्णयाधीन मामलों को निपटाने के लिये कुछ नये न्यायाधीश नियुक्त करने का है?

विधि न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री (श्री एच० आर० गोखले) : (क) गत तीन वर्षों में निपटाए गए मामलों का औसत 6,640 था।

(ख) उच्चतम न्यायालय द्वारा लम्बित मामलों को शीघ्रता से निपटाने का हर प्रयास किया जा रहा है।

(ग) संविधान के अधीन अनुज्ञेय उच्चतम न्यायालय के न्यायाधीशों की अधिकतम संख्या 14 है, जिसके अन्तर्गत मुख्य न्यायाधीश भी है। उच्चतम न्यायालय में पहले से ही न्यायाधीशों की अधिकतम संख्या है। न्यायाधीशों की संख्या में और वृद्धि करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

उच्चतम न्यायालय और उच्च न्यायालयों में श्रमिकों के मामलों को निपटाने के लिये पृथक 'बेंचें' स्थापित करने का प्रस्ताव

1153. **श्री श्रीकृष्ण अग्रवाल :** क्या **विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य** मंत्री उच्चतम न्यायालय और उच्च न्यायालयों में श्रमिकों को निपटाने के लिए पृथक 'बेंचें' स्थापित करने के प्रस्ताव के बारे में 13 अगस्त, 1974 के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 2340 के उत्तर के संबंध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) श्रमिक विवादों को निपटाने के लिये उच्च न्यायालयों में विशेष बेंचें स्थापित करने के संबंध में अब तक कितनी प्रगति हुई है,

(ख) क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई जांच की है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या परिणाम निकले और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

विधि न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री (श्री एच० आर० गोखले) : (क) से (ग) श्रम संबंधी मामलो, कराधान संबंधी मामलो, निर्वाचिन संबंधी अपीलों आदि जैसे विभिन्न वर्गों के मामला को निपटाने के लिए उच्च न्यायालयों के मुख्य न्यायाधीशों द्वारा, जब कभी आवश्यक समझा जाता है, उच्च न्यायालयों के नियमों के अनुसार बेंचे गठित की जाती है। तथापि, मामले की अभी जांच की जा रही है।

Allotment of petroleum products to States and checking their wasteful consumption

1154. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which State-wise allotment of petroleum and petroleum products is made;

(b) the steps taken to avoid wasteful utilization of petroleum products in high consumption vehicles like jeeps; and

(c) is there any plan to ban plying of jeeps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Except for kerosene oil there is no State-wise allotment of other petroleum products. Kerosene quotas are allotted to States on the basis of past trends of consumption.

(b) With the steep increase in price of petrol various steps are reported to have been taken by the manufacturers for improving the fuel economy of the jeep range of vehicles. Technical modifications like lower ratio rear axle, leaner size jets and Venturi on the Carburettor etc. have been introduced. Free diagnostic checks are also being made by the manufacturers on various jeep vehicles and deficiencies which contribute to poor fuel economy are brought to the notice of jeep customers.

(c) There is no such proposal under the consideration of Government at present.

Cases referred to M.R.T.P. Commission

1155. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases referred to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practice Commission since its inception; and

(b) the number of cases disposed of alongwith the outcome thereof and the number of cases at present under consideration of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

[*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-850/1743].

झांसी मानिकपुर यात्री रेलगाड़ी का बेरी से चलना

1156. श्री नाथू राम अहिरवार : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) पहली जुलाई, 1974 से 30 सितम्बर, 1974 की अवधि के दौरान

झासी–मानिकपुर यात्री रेलगाड़ी कितने दिन कितनी देरी से पहुंची तथा रवाना हुई ,

(ख) क्या जब कभी मेले का अवसर आता है तभी गाडी मे कम डिब्बे होते है और

(ग) क्या इस रेलगाडी को लाने ले जाने के लिये एक ही इजन है जिसके कारण यह देरी से पहुचती है तथा देरी से रवाना होती है तथा इस इजन को कोयला पानी लाने मे जो समय लगता है वह भी इस देरी को बढाता है और यदि हा, तो रेलवे विभाग ने इसके निराकरण के लिये क्या उपचारात्मक कार्यवाही की है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) (क) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा है जिसमे पहली जुलाई, 1974 से 30 सितम्बर, 1974 तक की अवधि मे झासी–मानिकपुर सवारी गाडी के देर से चलन की स्थिति बतायी गयी है ।

(ख) जी नही । ग्रन्थालय मे रखा गया । [ग्रन्थालय मे रखा गया देखिये सख्या एल टी-8502/74] ।

(ग) जी हा । 521/522 और 523/524 जोडी गाडियो के प्रत्येक के अप और डाउन फेरे एक ही इजन द्वारा किये जाते है । लेकिन इन गाडियो का समय पालन असतोषजनक होने का मूल कारण खतरे की जजीर का भारी मात्रा मे खीचा जाना तथा सचार तारो की चोरी है जिससे कट्रोल के काम मे बाधा पड जाती है और फलत मार्ग मे गाडिया रूक जाती है । बदमाशी की ऐसी हरकतो की उपयुक्त स्तरो पर समन्वय स्थापित करके सिविल प्राधिकारियो की सहमति से मुकाबला किया जा रहा है ।

कलपाहर के स्टेशन मास्टर द्वारा लोहे से लदे एक वैगन की बिक्री

1157. **श्री नाथू राम अहिरवार** क्या रेल मत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मई के दूसरे सप्ताह मे लोहे से लदा एक वैगन झासी डिवीजन (मध्य रेलवे) के कल पाहर स्टेशन पर खाली वैगनो के साथ पहुचा था ,

(ख) क्या कलपाहर स्टेशन पर ड्यूटी पर तैनात स्टेशन मास्टर ने इस वगन को खाली करवा कर लोहे को एक ठेकेदार को बेच दिया था ,

(ग) क्या उक्त क्षेत्र के एक ससद सदस्य ने आपके मत्रालय को इस सबध मे शिकायत की थी ,

(घ) क्या जिस दिन जाट अधिकारी स्टेशन पर जाच के लिये गया वहा पूरी मात्रा मे लोहा उपलब्ध नही था और उसकी मात्रा का बाद मे पूरा किया गया;

(ङ) क्या स्टेशन मास्टर ने वैगन की सख्या का उल्लेख नही किया था , और

(च) यदि हा, तो जाच आरम्भ करने से पूर्व स्टेशन मास्टर को मुअत्तिल न करने के क्या कारण है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) (क) जी नही । लेकिन 6–2–74 को कलपाहर स्टेशन पर माल डिब्बा न० सी० आर० 55705 खाली मालडिब्बे के रूप मे मिला था लेकिन उसमे स्क्रैप आयरन जाज भरे हुए पाये गये ।

(ख) 6–2–74 को प्राप्त मालडिब्बे का माल स्टेशन द्वारा उतरवाया गया । जहा तक किसी ठेकेदार को बेचने का

संबंध है इस मामले की जांच की जा रही है ।

(ग) जी हा, 6-2-74 को प्राप्त माल डिब्बे के सबध मे ।

(घ) राजपत्रित अधिकारियो की जाच समिति द्वारा इस मामले की जाच की जा रही है। इस समिति म एक सहायक वाणिज्य अधीक्षक, सहायक सुरक्षा अधिकारी और सहायक भडार नियत्रण है ।

(ड) माल डिब्बे की सख्या उचित ढग से नही लिखी गयी थी।

(च) चूकि जाचपडताल जारी है इसलिये, स्टेशन मास्टर को निलमिडत रखना आवश्यक नही समझा गया ।

Cancellation of Passenger Trains running through rural areas due to shortage of steam coal

1158 SHRI RJDEO SINGH. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state·

(a) whether some passenger trains catering only to the needs of the rural areas stand cancelled due to shortage of steam coal since last Railway Strike,

(b) if so, the number of such trains, Zonal railwaywise,

(c) whether Railway administration propose to meet the shortage by allotting more coal wagons to carry the required quantity and quality of coal from the coal pit-heads; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Method invented by a Danish Inventor regarding oil exploration

1159. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a method of getting oil to the surface quicker has been patented by a Danish Inventor, Karl Kroeyar; and

(b) if so, whether this method and appliances are proposed to be utilized for oil wells in Gujarat and Assam oilfields which have failed to be profitable because the flow there is slow?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHR C. P MAJHI)·

(a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course

Export of Naphtha

1160. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Union Government have decided to export another 75,000 tonnes of Naphtha during the current year over and above one lakh tonnes already exported;

(b) if so, whether our fertiliser plants either in public sector or in private sector don't use Naphtha as feedstock, and

(c) whether Naphtha is used as base material for some fertiliser plants, if so, whether the need to export arose because of surplus production of Naphtha by our refineries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a). Exports of Naphtha in the current year have been made too the extent of about 124,000 tonnes upto July 1974. Another 20,000 tonnes is planned to be exported this month. It is proposed to export another 50,000 tonnes of Naphtha later during the current year if considered necessary.

(b) and (c): Majority of the fertiliser plants in the country use Naphtha as feedstock. However the offtake of Naphtha by the fertiliser plants did not reach the anticipated levels because of delay m the commissioning of new fertiliser projects and the inability of the existing plants to run at full capacity. This gave rise to the need for Naphtha exports.

Oil and gas deposits found in Kashmir

1161. SHRI SARJOO PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether substantial reserves of oil and natural gas have been detected in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

महत्वपूर्ण (जीवन दायी) दवाइयों के मूल्य और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में उनकी उपलब्धता

1162. **श्री आर० बी० बड़े :**
श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :
श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी :

क्या पैट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि .

(क) गत तीन वर्षों में प्रत्येक वर्ष आम उपयोग की महत्वपूर्ण (जीवनदायी) दवाईयों के मूल्य क्या-क्या थे और अब क्या हैं ?

(ख) सुदूर वनों और पहाडो तथा ग्रामों में रहने वालो को सुगमता से और सस्ती दरों पर ये दवाईया उपलब्ध कराने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ,

(ग) क्या जीवनदायी दवाये गरीब क्षेत्रो का रियायती मूल्य पर सप्लाई करने की योजना है और यदि नही, तो इसके क्या कारण है ,

(घ) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार का विचार आगामा वर्षों में इस बारे में कोई विशेष योजना क्रियान्वित करने का है , और

(ङ) यदि हा, तो तत्सबंधी मुख्य बाते क्या है और यदि नही, तो इसके क्या कारण है ?

पैट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० आर० गणेश) (क) औषध (मूल्य नियंत्रण) आदेश, 1970 की अनुसूची में दी गई 17 अनिवार्य ड्रग औषधो के मूल्यो के सबध में अपेक्षित सूचना सभा पटल पर रखे गये परिशिष्ट मे दी गई ह । [ग्रन्थालय मे रखा गया देखिये सख्या LT 8503/74] ।

(ख) से (ङ) एक योजना बनाई गई है जिसका उद्देश्य औषधों को युयोचित मूल्य पर उपलब्ध कराना है तथा ग्रामीण जनता, विशेषकर सुदूर इलाकों में रहने वाली जनता के घरेलू उपचार में काम आने वाली औषधो को पाचवी पंचवर्षीय योजना में शामिल किया गया है । इस उद्देश्य की पूर्ति के लिये स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मत्रालय के कार्यक्रम में पाचवी पचवर्षीय योजना में 500 लाख रुपये का आवटन किया गया है । इस योजना के अर्न्तगत प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों और उन केन्द्रो के माध्यम स जनता को लगभग

100 औषधों को सप्लाई करने और निर्माण करने के लिये एक सूची तैयार की गई है। आम प्रयोग में आने वाले औषध का औषधिया सामान्य जनता को यथोचित मूल्य पर उपलब्ध कराने के लिये अपेक्षित उपायों का जाच अधिकाश खपत को आवश्यक वस्तुओं पर योजना आयोग द्वारा गठित समिति द्वारा की गई है। सरकार ने भी श्री जयसुखलाल हाथी की अध्यक्षता में एक समिति का गठन भी किया है जिसके विचारार्थ विषय अन्य बातो के साथ-साथ निम्न बाता को शामिल करता है –

(1) उपभोक्ताओं के लिये औषधो के मूल्य का कम करने के सबध में अभी तक उठाये गये कदमों की जाच करना तथा औषध एव मूल योगा के मूल्यों में सुधार करन के लिय आवश्यक समझे गये ऐस और उपायो की सिफारिश करना, और

(2) आम जनता विशेषकर ग्रामीण क्षेत्रा में आवश्यक औषधों तथा घरेलू औषधा का व्यवस्था करना। समिति को अभी अपनी रिपा प्रस्तुत करनी है।

Increase in Expenditure on Import of crude due to raising its prices by foreign oil companies

1163 SHRI C. K JAFFER SHARIEF. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase in the import of crude on Government account in view of the recent hike of 50 cents per barrel by three foreign suppliers i.e. Burma Shell, Caltex and EXXON; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH) (a) and (b) Burmah Shell, Caltex and EXXON have increase the price of crud coil as indicated below:

	From	To
Burmah Shell (with effect from 1-10-1974)	$ 9 90/bbl	$ 10 40/bbl
(with effect from 14-11-1974) PROVISIONAL	$ 10 40/bbl	$ 10 67/bbl
Caltex (with effect from 1-10-1974)	$ 9 75/bbl	$ 10 25/bbl
EXXON (with effect from 3-10-1974)	$ 9 764/bbl	$ 10 094/bbl

There has been no increase in the import of crude on Government account for the present.

Ticketless Travelling

1164 SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of passengers caught travelling without ticket on various Railways during the period from 1st January, 1974 to 31st October, 1974;

(b) the total amount realised from them as fine during the same period;

(c) how many passengers, so caught, were sent to jail for non-payment of the fine; and

(d) how many persons were allowed to go without paying any penalty and why?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) During the period 1st January, 1974 to 30th September, 1974, 11,67,917 persons were detected travelling without tickets or with improper tickets. Figures for October, 1974 are awaited from Zonal Railways.

(b) Amount realised from them as

(i) Fares and excess charges.	Rs. 1,59,64,659
(ii) Judicial Fine	Rs. 9,01,359

(c) 79,159.

(d) 6,212 passengers were let off by the courts due to the discretionary powers vested in the trying magistrates.

Reorganisation of Oil and Natural Gas Commission

1165. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:
SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM:
SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM:
SHRI K M. MADHUKAR:
SHRI R. S. PANDEY:
SHRI V. MAYAVAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the question of re-organising the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof together with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the reorganisation would be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI) (a) to (c): The reorganisation of the ONGC is under consideration. It will not be in public interest to disclose any details at present.

Export of Railway Coaches to African Countries

1166. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received orders for export of coaches to some of the African countries;

(b) if so, the names of the countries and particulars of the orders received by Government;

(c) the time by which all the coaches are expected to be exported; and

(d) how much foreign exchange would be earned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) Yes, on one occasion in the past. No current orders are on hand at present.

(b) Zambia for 4 inspection and 2 caboose coaches.

(c) These coaches were shipped in June. 1973.

(d) The amount of foreign exchange earned was approximately Rs. 11.00 lakhs

Instruction issued to the staff by the Minister of State for Railways

1167. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:
SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minister of State for Railways paid surprise visit to the various Railway yards in Delhi and New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the salient features of the faults in the working of Railways detected by him; and

(c) the outlines of instructions issued by him to the staff to improve the working of the Railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) Yes. The Minister of State for Railways inspected New Delhi and Delhi Jn. Railway Stations on 25-10-1974.

(b) The irregularities noticed were that some un-reserved coaches of certain trains were occupied by passangers before the trains were placed on platform, condition of some coaches was not satisfactory in respect of cleanliness, amenity fittings and lighting and some unstamped books were found on the trollies of the bookstall.

(c) Instructions were issued to launch an intesive drive for ticket checking, cleanliness and through checking of the coaches and book-stalls to remove the deficiencies noticed.

Case of sabotage during Bihar Bandhs

1168. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) in how many places in Bihar cases of sabotage and other kinds of acts of damage to the Railways during Bandh in the first week of October, 1974, were detected; and

(b) what action has been taken against the persons found responsible for such acts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) 104 places.

(b) cases of sabotage are still under investigation by the State Police authorities. Action against persons found responsible can only be taken after the completion of the investigations.

Pilferage on Eastern Railway during the last three years

1169. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:
SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of goods lost during the last three years due to pilferage in the Eastern Railway;

(b) whether the problem of pilferage has become endemic in the Eastern region;

(c) if so, the factors responsible for the same;

(d) what steps, if any, have been taken to put a stop to pilferage; and

(e) the outcome of the steps taken so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) Total value of goods lost during the last three years due to pilferages (including those from scale intact wagons) on the Eastern Railway was as follows:-

Year	Value of property lost
	Rs.
1971	92,28,098
1972	35,31,616
1973.	63,95,756

(b) Yes.

(c) Deterioration of law and order particularly in the States of West Bengal & Bihar, sky-rocketting rise of prices and scarcity of essential commodities are attributed as the factors responsible for the high incidence of pilferages.

(d) The following steps have been taken to check the incidence of pilferages:-

(i) All important yards, goods sheds transhipment/repacking points

etc, are being guarded round the clock by RPF

(ii) Nominated goods trains particularly those carrying high-rated commodities, are being escorted by the RPF in vulnerable sections

(iii) Special drives are conducted against the receivers of stolen property and cases are prosecuted under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966

(iv) Plain clothed RPF staff are deployed to keep watch on the activities of criminals

(v) Assistance and co-operation of Railway Trade Unions has been sought for prevention and detection of crimes on the Railway

(vi) Necessary co-operation is maintained with State Police authorities for keeping surveillance over bad characters operating on the Railway

(e) The number of cases of pilferages (including those from seals intact wagons) registered has come down from 14,699 in 1971 to 11 186 in 1972 and 8 252 in 1973 However, due to a steep rise in the general price level of all commodities it has not been possible to reduce the value of the property pilferred during the year 1973

Increase in price of Arabian Crude by EXXON

1170 SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU
SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether EXXON has sharply increased the price of Arabian Mix by another 30 cents with effect from October 31, 1974,

(b) whether this would mean an additional burden on the exchequer of about Rs 5 crores in a full year,

(c) if so, the facts thereof, and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C P MAJHI) (a) EXXON has increased the price of Arabian Mix by 33 cents per barrel with effect from 3rd October, 1974

(b) and (c) Yes Sir

(d) EXXON have been asked to clarify the reasons for increase and quantify them

Implementation of Demands of Railwaymen conceded by Railways

1171 SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether on the eve of the last All India General strike of Railwaymen, his Ministry conceded some of the demands of the employees

(b) if so what are those demands,

(c) whether any of those demands have been implemented and

(d) if so the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) and (b) Yes certain concessions were agreed to Mainly these are-(i) Implementation of Mahbhoy's Award in toto (ii) Cadre review and upgradation of Class III and Class IV staff (iii) Job evaluation within the framework of the Pay Commission's recommendations (iv) Removal of anomalies arising as a result of Pay Commission's recommendations (v) Certain policies with regard to employment of casual labour and (vi) Opening of fair price shops in railway colonies housing more than 300 families

(c) and (d) Action has been initiated on all these concessions and they are in the process of implementation.

Employees Suffered Dismissal/ Suspension due to last All India General strike of Railwaymen

1172. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:
SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Railway-wise total number of employees (1) dismissed and (2) still under suspension on charges of participating in the last All India General strike of railwaymen; and

(b) what steps, if any, are being taken to reinstate these employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) No railway employee is normally dismissed from service or suspended for mere participation in a strike. In the strike of May, 1974, however, railway-wise total-number of employees dismissed and still under suspension is given as per statement enclosed.

Appeals and representations are under active consideration on the Railways and already nearly 12000 employees have been taken back to duty.

Statement

Railway	Total number of employees dismissed/ removed/ terminated	Total number of employees still under suspension
Central	1701	118
Eastern	2585	165
Northern	1389	79
North Eastern	826	262
Northeast Frontier	3336	9
Southern	530	55
South Central	707	..
South Eastern	2098	263
Western	3507	46
TOTAL	16679	997

Enquiry into the Affairs of 11 Companies of Tatas by M.R.T.P. Commission

1173. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has conducted enquiry into the affairs of the 11 companies belonging to Tatas; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the findings thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI DEBABRATA BARUA) (a) and (b) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has so far instituted enquiries under section 10 (a) (i) and 10(a) (iii) of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 against the following companies belonging to the Tata Group·

Section 10(a) (i):

(1) Indian Tube Co. Ltd. and its 3 distributors of Delhi.

Section 10 (a) (iii)

(1) Tata Engineering & Locomotive Co. Ltd.

(2) Tata Oil Mills Co. Ltd

(3) Swadeshi Mills Co. Ltd.

(4) Ahmedabad Advance Mills Ltd.

(5) Tata Mills Ltd.

(6) Central India Spg. & Mfg. Co. Ltd.

(7) Tata Chemicals Ltd.

All the above enquiries are at the stage of pleadings, except in the case of the enquiry under section 10(a) (i) of the Monopolies and Restrictive

Trade Practices Act against the Indian Tube Co. Ltd. and its 3 distributors of Delhi in which case the Commission vide its Order dated the 11th April, 1974 approved on trials basis for one year the Scheme of Distribution submitted by the Distributors and seconded by the Indian Tube Co. Ltd. The distributors have, however, now approached the Commission for certain amendments to the Scheme. The matter is under consideration of the Commission.

The Pipe Dealers Association have since filed an appeal under section 55 of the MRTP Act in the Supreme Court against the Commission's Judgement dated the 11th April, 1974.

The report of the Commission in respect of the proposal of the Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company Limited for expansion in the field of commercial vehicle, referred to it by the Central Government under section 2 was laid on the Table of the House on the 4th December, 1973. along with Central Government's orders thereon.

Disagreement over Financing of Broad gauge Line for Martin Railway Project in West Bengal

1174. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is disagreement between the Centre and the State Government over the financing of the broad gauge Martin Light Railway project in West Bengal;

(b) the salient features thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c). The construction of a broad gauge line from Howrah to Sheakhala and Howrah to Amta, with a branch line from Baragachia to Champadanga, was approved by Parliament, on the basis of 50 per cent participation of the State Government in the cost of construction and operation of the lines. This financial arrangement has again been communicated of the Government of West Bengal for formal acceptance. The matter is under consideration of the State Government.

Loss of increment, Break-in-Service, Promotion to Employees for taking part in Recent Railway Strike

1175. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Railway workers who had lost increment suffered break-in-service or lost promotion for taking part in the Railway strike of May, 1974;

(b) break-up region-wise thereof; and

(c) future action proposed by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). The number of Railway workers who suffered break-in-service, zonewise, is as follows:

Railway	Number
Central	65,602
Eastern	1,15,868
Northern	38,453
North Eastern	17,506
Northeast Frontier	65,000
Southern	65,115
South Central	43,748
South Eastern	78,869
Western	72.581

The staff do not loss increment but this is postponed corresponding to the period for which they were on strike. They do not loss seniority or promotion.

(c) In consideration of the fact that a number of staff may have absented themselves from their duties possibly because of reasons such as intimidation and threats of violence the General Managers were empowered to condone the break in service after verification depending on the extenuating circumstances. Out of a total of 5.91 lakhs employees, break in service has so far been condoned in the case of about 3.4 lakhs employees.

बिहार के लिये पृथक रेलवे जोन

1176. **श्री विभूति मिश्र :** क्या **रेल मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार का सिंहभूम होकर जाने वाली गाड़ियों के लिये पटना में अलग रेलवे जोन बनाने का विचार है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) फिलहाल, ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन नहीं है ।

अधिक संख्या में कानून न बनाने का प्रस्ताव

1177. **श्री विभूति मिश्र :** क्या **विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि वकीलों ने यह राय दी है कि सरकार को और अधिक कानून न बनाकर वर्तमान कानूनों का ही व्यापक बनाना चाहिए ; और

(ख) यदि हां तो इस पर सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया है ?

विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० सरोजिनी महिषि : (क) और (ख) . सरकार को इस संबंध में वकीलों की किसी प्रतिनिधिक राय की जानकारी प्राप्त नहीं हुई है । किन्तु जब किसी विधि आयोग किसी विषय को पुनरीक्षण के लिये अपने हाथ में लेता है, वह सुसंगत अधिनियमितियों के समेकन की वांछनीयता और व्यवहार्यता को ध्यान में रखता है । विधि आयोग द्वारा अपनी रिपोर्ट, उदाहरणार्थ (क) भूमि के अर्जन और अधिग्रहण की विधि (10 वीं रिपोर्ट), (ख) भारत में क्रिश्चियनों में विवाह और विवाह-विच्छेद से संबंधित विधि (15वीं रिपोर्ट), (ग) दिवाला विषयक विधि (26वीं रिपोर्ट) और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के विरुद्ध अपराध (43 वीं रिपोर्ट) से संबंधित रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करते समय समेकन की इस नीति का अनुसरण किया गया है ।

मैसर्स ए० एच० व्हीलर एंड कम्पनी का विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर पत्रिकाओं की बिक्री करने का एकाधिकार

1178. **श्री विभूति मिश्र** क्या **रेल मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सरकार ने मैसर्स ए० एच० व्हीलर एंड कम्पनी को विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर पुस्तकों और पत्रिकाओं के बेचने का एकाधिकार दिया है , और

(ख) क्या सरकार का विचार उक्त एकाधिकार को समाप्त करने का है , और

(ग) यदि हां, तो ऐसा कब तक किया जायेगा ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) (क) सम्पूर्ण रेलवे पर या उसके किसी हिस्से पर किताब की दुकानें चलाने के लिये पहले मैसर्स ए० एच० व्हीलर कं० को ही जो एक मात्र अधिकार दिया गया था उसमें 1-8-1960 से इस प्रकार संशोधन कर दिया

गया है ताकि (i) जिन स्टेशनो पर किताब की दुकान न हो उन पर दूसरो को भी किताब की दुकान आवंटित की जा सके, तथा (ii) जिन स्टेशनों पर इस समय किताब की दुकानें हैं वहां भी राम कृष्ण मिशन, गीता प्रेस, सर्व सेवा सघ प्रकाशन आदि जैसी कतिपय लोक हितैषी विशिष्ट संस्थाओं की किताबे, पत्रिकाओं आदि की बिक्री के लिये किताब की अन्य दुकाने खोलने की अनुमति दी जा सके। फलस्वरूप मसर्स ए० एच० व्हीलर एंड क० का किताब की दुकान चलाने का अब कोई एकाधिकार नही है । रेलवे के विभिन्न स्टेशनो पर लगभग 350 किताब की दुकाने चलाने वाले लगभग 220 अन्य ठेकेदार है ।

(ख) और (ख) प्रश्न नही उठता ।

बिहार में समाज विरोधी तत्वों द्वारा रेलवे लाइनों का उखाड़ा जाना

1179. **श्री विभूति मिश्र** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या बिहार में समाज विरोधी तत्व 2 अक्तूबर, 1974 से रेलवे लाइने उखाडने का दुष्कर्म कर रहे है;

(ख) यदि हा, तो क्या इस में राजनीतिक तत्वो का भी हाथ है, और

(ग) यदि हा, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह)

(क) और (ख) . बहुत सी मागो को लेकर विद्यार्थियो के एक वर्ग और राजनीतिक दलो द्वारा चलाये गये आन्दोलन के दौरान रेल पटरियो को उखाडे जाने के कुछ मामलों की रिपोर्ट की गयी है ।

(ग) राज्य सरकार और रेल प्रशासन द्वारा इस प्रकार की घटनाओ को रोकने के लिये सुरक्षा प्रबन्ध किये गये थे । असुरक्षित क्षेत्रो मे रेल पटरियो की सुरक्षा गश्त चालू कर दी गई थी । मामले पुलिस की जाच मे हैं और कुछ व्यक्तियों को जो घटनाओं के लिये जिम्मेदार पाये गये गिरफ्तार किया गया है ।

Waiting List of SC/ST for nomination to various Posts Reserved for them

1180 SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various Railways Service Commissions and other recruiting authorities under the Railway Ministry are able to nominate Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons against all reserved vacancies for various secretariat services, but as many persons nominated for these posts do not report for duty some reserved posts remain unfilled;

(b) whether a larger number of Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribe persons qualify for various secretariat jobs, but the authorities concerned usually nominate only that number of candidates as are actually required to be appointed against available reserved vacancies, without maintaining waiting lists for filling subsequent vacancies and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry propose to consider the desirability of issuing suitable instructions to the authorities concerned to maintain such waiting lists?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Appointment of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Persons in Gauhati Refinery

1181. SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to appoint Scheduled Caste/Tribe persons in Class II supervisory posts in the Gauhati Oil Refinery, in pursuance of recommendations made in their Sixth Report by the Parliamentary Committee on the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Fifth Lok Sabha);

(b) the steps taken to draw-up suitable training plans for in-service training of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees of that Refinery for increasing the representation of these communities in its Class I and Class II services, as recommended in the above report (of the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes); and

(c) the latest position as regards the representation of these communities in the above posts in the Refinery?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C P MAJHI): (a) As per recruitment policy of the Corporation, direct recruitment to Class II supervisory post is not resorted to unless suitable departmental candidate is not available for promotion. While considering the departmental candidates for promotion due weightage is given to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candidates in accordance with the instructions issued by the Government. No direct recruitment in Class II supervisory category in Gauhati Refinery has however been made since 1972.

(b) Refinery Management have already drawn up a training scheme and are imparting in-plant training in various vocations to the employees of the refinery including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes employees.

(c) The latest position of the representation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes communities in Gauhati Refinery is as under:-

Class	In position	SC Candidates	ST Candidates
I	134	2	2
II	16:	13	1

Instructions issued to sulphuric acid manufacturers regarding Production, Allocation and Disposal of sulphur and acid

1182 SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR:

SHRI TUNA ORAON:

SHRI LUTFUL HAQUE:

SHRI DEBENDRA NATH MAHATA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has instructed the Acid manufacturers to furnish to the Ministry particulars regarding (1) the production of acid in 1973-74, (2) allocation of sulphur in 1973-74 and the quantity actually received, (3) disposal with details of the acid produced;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the information received so far from each of the manufacturers; and

(c) action taken so far for the rational supply of acid to the small scale industry in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Yes, Sir. Information on the points mentioned in the question was called for from the Sulphuric Acid manufacturers in the Calcutta Region.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) The position was reviewed at a meeting held jointly with the representatives of the manufacturers and the consumers The manufacturers have been advised to make special efforts to meet the sulphuric acid requirements of the small-scale units. In regard to price aspect they were also advised to agree on a price which would be fair to both the parties.

Statement

Name of Unit	Production of acid in 1973-74	Allocation of sulphur in 1973-74 and actually received	Disposal with details, of acid produced
1	2	3	4
1. M/s. Jay Shree Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd., Calcutta.	17,592 tonnes	5198 tonnes (actually received)	Consumed in the production of superphosphate.
2. M/s. C. D. Thakkar & Co., Calcutta.	6,440 tonnes	2,277 tonnes (received)	50% to Bokaro Steel Plant, Durgapur, Chandrapura & Patratu Thermal Power Station, Alloy Steel Plant (HSL), Durgapur, FCI/Barauni & Durgapur, Indian Oil Corporation, Barauni Thermal Power Station and some manufacturers near their factory. Balance is consumed by their own factory for production of alumina ferric, Magnesium Sulphate, Zinc Sulphate etc.
3. M/s. Phosphate Co. Ltd., Calcutta.	22,590 tonnes (for calender year 1973)	Allocation: 10,000 tonnes Received : 9345 tonnes	Consumed in their own factory 17.700 tonnes Sold . . 4821 tonnes

Manufacture and distribution of Soda Ash

1183. SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR:
SHRI TUNA ORAON:
SHRI DEBENDRA NATH MAHATA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the manufacturing concerns engaged in producing Soda Ash;

(b) the method for its distribution; and

(c) the extent of utilisation of installed capacity of each unit during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINITRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) 1. M/s. Tata Chemicals Ltd., Mithapur (Gujarat).

2. M/s. Saurashtra Chemicals, Porbandar (Gujarat)

3. M/s. Dhrangadhra Chemicals Ltd., Dhrangadhra (Gujarat)

4. M/s. Sahu Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd., Varanasi (U.P.).

(b) There is no control on distribution of soda ash an the manufacturers follow their own systems of distribution either direct to consuming industries or through depots or through traders etc.

(c) The installed capacity and production of the four manufacturing units during the last three years were as under:—

S. No.	Name of units	Installed Capacity (tonnes)	Production (tonnes)		
			1971	1972	1973
1	M/s. Tata Chemicals Ltd., Mithapur (Gujarat)	250,000	204,900	225,120	221,946
2	M/s. Saurashtra Chemicals, Porbander (Gujarat)	168,000	196,900	185,890	169,755
3	M/s. Dharangadhra Chemical Works Ltd. Dharangadhra (Gujarat)	50,000	52,800	53,530	57,574
4	M/s. Sahu Chemicals and Fertilizers (The New Central Jute Mills Co. Ltd.) Sahupur, Varanasi, U. P.	40,000	24,300	21,200	19,799

Proposals for Railway lines in Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram in 5th Five Year Plan

1184. SHRI NOORUL HUDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have abandoned the proposed construction of railway lines in Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram during the Fifth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No.

(b) The position is explained below: Surveys for the following proposed new lines in these States have been completed and their reports are under examination/have been examined:

(i) Silchar Jiribam (Manipur).

(ii) Dharmanagar-Agartala (Tripura)

(iii) Dharmanagar - Kumarghat-Kailashahar (Tripura).

(iv) Agartala-Sabroom (Tripura).

Construction of Dharmanagar-Kumarghat M.G. line was to be taken up during the current financial year subject to availability of funds by the N.E Council. The work has not been taken up as the N.E. Council has not been able to allocate funds for this project so far. Construction of Silchar Jiribam, and Kumarghat-Agartala-Sabroom would be taken up during the Fifth Plan subject to the availability of funds. Surveys for the proposals from 1 to 7 which would serve the States indicated against each are proposed to be taken up/are in progress at the cost of the N.E.. Council:—

1. Pancharatnaghat-Dudnai-Darangiri (BG) (with wagon ferry arrangements/bridge over Brahmaputra river between Jogighopa and Pancharatnaghat) (Assam & Meghalaya)

2 Gauhati-Burnihat (Assam & Meghalaya)

3. Lalaghat-Sairang (MG) (Assam & Mizoram)

4 Rangapara / Balipara-Bhalukpung (MG) (Assam & Arunachal Pradesh)

5 Tipling-Itanagar (MG) (Assam & Arunchal Pradesh)

6 Murkongselek-Passighat (MG) (Assam & Arunachal Pradesh)

7 Gauhati-Dudnai (Assam)

8. Sidings between Akhaura (in (Bangladesh) and Agartala (in Tripura) and Beloma Station (in-Bangladesh) and Beloma City (in-Tripura)

Further consideration will be given to the construction of these lines after the surveys are completed

All the above lines are expected to be unremunerative and suitable arrangements will have to be worked out to protect the Railways against recurring losses. Funds will also have to be found in the 5th Plan for the construction of these lines.

Memorandum regarding non-payment of H.R.A. to Signallers at Madras

1185. SHRI NOORUL HUDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether his Ministry have received any memorandum regarding the non-payment of House Rent Allowance to Signallers working at Madras,

(b) the salient points thereof; and

(c) reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise

Temporary status to casual labourers engaged in Tinsukia-Namrup Section (Northeast Frontier Railway)

1186. SHRI NURUL HUDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether he received any representation regarding the grant of temporary status to casual labourers engaged in relaying work in Tinsukia-Namrup Section of Northeast Frontier Railway;

(b) if so, salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) Yes.

(b) The request is that casual labourers who have completed 4 months in relaying work should be granted temporary status

(c) Relaying work is Project work. Casual labour employed on Projects are not eligible for temporary status but only for being paid wages at 1/30th of the minimum of the scale plus dearness allowance on completion of six months continuous service.

Inadequate supply of Sulphuric Acid to small Industries in West Bengal

1187. SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO:

SHRI TUNA ORAON:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any representation from the small units in West Bengal about the difficulties in getting adequate quantities of Sulphuric Acid at reasonable prices;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the representations; and

(c) the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The representations were to the effect that supplies of sulphuric acid to small scale units in the Calcutta region were inadequate and that the prices charged for the supplies made were also high.

(c) The position was reviewed at a meeting held jointly with the representatives of the manufacturers and the consumers. The manufacturers have been advised to make special efforts to meet sulphuric acid requirement of small-scale units. In regard to the price aspect, they were also advised to agree on a price which would be fair to both the parties.

Loss to Durgapur Projects Limited due to clandestine supply of gas

1188. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Durgapur Projects Limited has been losing Rs. 4,60,000 a month for some time because of the clandestine supply of gas to industrial and domestic consumers by its officials;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) steps taken against those officials?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha as early as possible.

Employees of different status suffered punishment due to strike on Central Railway, Division-wise and Workshop-wise

1189. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees permanent, temporary, casual on monthly rates of pay and casual on daily rates of wages, who were dismissed, removed or whose services were terminated due to May, 1974 strike on the Central Railway, Division-wise and workshop-wise;

(b) the number of employees of each category, who have since been taken back on duty;

(c) the number of employees of each category who are yet to be taken back; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in their re-instatement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See No. LT—8504/74).

(d) Individual appeals submitted by the staff are being reviewed on case to case basis. The process is continuing and the administration are doing their utmost to review cases as expeditiously as is possible. Re-engagement of casual labour depends also on the work needs and resources position.

Retrenchment of employees in Engineering Department under I.O.Ws. and B. R. Is. Indian Railways

1190. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether retrenchment of employees in the Engineering Department under IOWs and BRIs are going on through out the Indian Railway system;

(b) whether before resorting to retrenchment, a cadre review of these establishments in each Division, as promised by the Railway Minister had been undertaken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c). Due to curtailment and slowing down of Civil Engineering works there has been reduction in the staff strength of the construction branch. As a result a few staff were surplus to requirements but there has been no retrenchment of regular staff since the policy of Government is not to retrench staff but to absorb them in alternative posts after giving them conversion training where necessary. Those who get retrenched are mostly casual labour. Cadre review does take place and it is only after reviewing the position in the light of curtailment of funds, that lists of casual labour to be retrenched are drawn up. Those who are laid off are given all the benefits prescribed in the Industrial Disputes Act.

Employees suffered dismissal/removal/termination in Production Units of Railway Board—I. C. F., D. L. W. and C.L.W.

1191. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees, permanent, temporary, casual on monthly rates of pay, casual on daily rates of wages, who were dismissed, removed or whose services were terminated, due to May, 1974 strikes, in each of the Production Units under the Railway Board—ICF, DLW and CLW;

(b) the number of employees of each category who have since been taken back on duty;

(c) the number of employees of each category who are yet to be taken back; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in their re-instatement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c). A statement is attached.

(d) The appeals submitted by the staff in question against dismissal/ removal/termination from service are being considered sympathetically on the merits of each case. The process is continuing. Re-engagement of

casual labour depends on the actual requirements of the Production Units.

Statement

	Permanent staff	Temporary Staff	Casual Labour
(a) C.L.W.	44	..	65
D.L.W.	11	..	..
I.C.F.	24	..	5
(b) C.L.W.	43	..	..
D.L.W.	..	..	..
I.C.F.	20	..	4
(c) C.L.W.	1	..	65
D.L.W.	11	..	..
I.C.F.	4	..	1

Trade Organisation's demand for withdrawal of punitive action taken after May, 1974 strike

1192. SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Trade Union Organisations of Railways and others have demanded from time to time after the Railway strike of May, 1974 that Government would withdraw all the punitive actions taken on different categories of Railway employees who had participated in the said Railway strike either directly or indirectly;

(b) whether Government have also received some resolutions passed by them in this connection, if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and the action taken by Government therein?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes. The representations received from or the resolutions passed by certain labour Organisations have generally urged Government that all the striking railway staff whose services were dispensed with or who were suspended from service in the context of the strike in May, 1974, should be taken back to duty, that the break in service of those who participated in the strike, should be condoned and that cases instituted against them under DIR, MISA and other laws should be withdrawn.

(c) Suitable action against the staff who had flouted the law of the land and violated clear orders, had to be taken. However, after the strike was called off unconditionally, Government took a sympathetic view of the matter. Individual appeals submitted by the affected employees have been reviewed by the competent authority and based on the merits of each cases about 12,000 of a total of over 16,000 employees whose services were dispensed with, have been taken back to duty. Wherever there have been extenuating circumstances and the staff could not come to work because of intimidation, violence etc the break in service has been condoned, so far the break in service of about 3 4 lakhs of employees has been condoned

Representation of SC/ST in various services and posts on Indian Railways

1193. SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees on each of the Railways, Railway Service Commissions and other offices under the Railway Board, as on 1st January, 1974, in various classes of services and posts;

(b) the number of (i) Scheduled Caste and (ii) Scheduled Tribe persons amongst those mentioned in (a) above;

(c) the reasons for under representation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, if any, in the above services and posts; and

(d) specific steps undertaken during the last two years, to increase the representation of these communities in these services and posts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

(c) Chapter II of the Report on the progress made on the Railways in the intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the half year ending 30-9-1973, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library, enlists the concessions admissible to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the matter of recruitment and promotion.

So far as direct recruitment is concerned certain posts reserved for these communities could not be filled by them mainly because of non-availability of candidates from these communities with necessary technical qualifications.

As regards promotion quotas, the same could not be utilised fully as the employees concerned were either not able to obtain the minimum qualifying marks or were not available in lower categories for consideration altogether

(d) Information is contained in the statement attached.

Statement

Apart from the concessions mentioned in Chapter II of the Report referred to in reply to part (c) of the Question, the following further steps have been taken to increase the intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes both in the case of direct recruitment and promotion during the last two years:

(i) A Special Cell has been established in the Railway Board which is headed by an Additional Director who is assisted by two Advisers

(ii) A Senior Scale post of Senior Personnel Officer has been created on each zonal Railway exclusively to deal with the cases of direct recruitment and promotion of these communities. He is assisted by Inspectorial and other staff.

(iii) Railways have been advised that so far as Class IV direct recruitment is concerned, the requisite number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, if not found among the existing casual labour and substitutes, should be taken from the open market

(iv) A special conference of the Chairmen of the Railway Service Commissions was called in June, 1974 to impress upon them that while recruiting candidates for the Railways they should ensure proper representation of these communities

(v) In regard to the recruitment of Scheduled Tribes in Class III and Class IV vacancies, the Railways have been directed that the Inspectorial staff attached to the Senior Personnel Officers (Reservation) should contact the Tribal people through various agencies such as Associations representing the Tribal people, Principals and Head Masters in Colleges and Schools located in Tribal belts and Missionary organisations doing welfare work in Tribal areas etc.

(vi) So far as promotion is concerned, it has again been impressed on the Railway administrations that all cases of supersession must be submitted to the General Manager/ authority concerned for review.

(vii) Orders have recently been issued that in the case of promotion, if the requisite number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates are not available for being placed on the panel in spite of various relaxations already granted, the best among them i.e. who secure the highest marks, should be earmarked for being placed on the panel to the extent vacancies have been reserved in their favour. The panel excluding the names of such persons may be declared provisionally. Thereafter the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates who have been so earmarked may be promoted *ad hoc* for a period of six months against the vacancies reserved for them. At the end of the six months' period, a special report should be obtained on the working of these candidates and the case put up by the Department concerned to the General Manager for review, with a view to see whether these candidates could be continued and promoted finally against the reserved vacancies.

(viii) Orders have issued providing for reservation in promotion to the categories and posts in Class I, II, III and IV filled on the basis of *seniority cum suitability* provided the element of direct recruitment to these grades, if any, does not exceed 50 per cent.

(ix) Orders have also issued providing for reservation in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotion made on the basis of Selection from Class III to Class II and from Class II to the lowest rung of Class I Services where the element of direct recruitment does not exceed 50 per cent.

Nomination of SC/ST Officers on DPC and Selection Board

1194. SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state,

(a) whether Scheduled Castes/ Tribes officers are being invariably nominated on the Departmental Promotion Committees and Selection Board, for promotion/recruitment to various posts on the Railways; and

(b) if this procedure is not being followed by any offices, the names of such offices and the reasons for their not following this procedure?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) and (b). The recommendation of the committee on the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for inclusion of at least one Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe member on all Selection Boards/ Recruitment Committees has been brought to the notice of concerned authorities. It may not always be possible to include Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe officers in the Selection Committees having regard to the technical nature of much of the work on the Railways which calls for technical departmental officers of appropriate status and background being in these Committees. It has, however been impressed on the Railway Administrations that the recommendation of the Committee should be kept in view and followed as far as possible while nominating officers on the Departmental Promotion Committees/Selection Boards etc.

In regard to recruitment to Class III service which is done through the Railway Service Commissions, in addition to the directive mentioned above Chairman, Members of these Commissions are generally drawn from the Scheduled Caste/Tribe communities. Scheduled Castes/Tribes and minority communities contribute the majority of personnel on these Commissions.

Association of S.C./S.T. Representatives Association with working of Housing Committees on Railways

1195. SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA:
SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether suitable instructions have been issued to the various Railway authorities to associate representatives of the Scheduled Castes/Tribes with the working of the Housing Committees set up under them; and

(b) if so, when were these instructions issued and whether these are being strictly followed by all concerned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes Instructions in this regard were issued by the Railway Board on 21st June, 1971 and are being followed wherever Housing Committees have been constituted. Railway Administrations which have not implemented these instructions so far, are being asked to do so.

Comprehensive information about posts reserved for S.C./S.T. in various Railways

1196. SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as recommended in the Fifteenth Report of the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Fifth Lok Sabha) a brochure giving comprehensive information about the posts reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the various Railways, methods of recruitment, qualifications required and other concessions and facilities available for them has been published; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of that brochure will be laid on the Table of the House?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). The Brochure on the lines of the one issued by the Department of Personnel is under compilation in this Ministry. Copies thereof will be supplied to the Parliament Library as soon as the same is printed and published.

अशोधित तेल का आयात करने के लिये करार

1197. श्री भारत सिंह चौहान :
श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा :

क्या पैट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत सरकार ने गत दो वर्षों में कुल कितने तेल के आयात के लिये करार किये है ;

(ख) इन करारो के अधीन तेल उत्पादक देशों से कितना तेल आयात किया जायेगा ;

(ग) भारत को तेल सप्लाई करने वाले उन देशों के नाम क्या है जहां तेल पैदा नही होता ; और

(घ) उनके द्वारा सप्लाई किये जा रहे तेल का प्रति बैरल मूल्य क्या है और उनको भुगतान करने का तरीका क्या है ?

पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री-सी० पी० मल्ली) (क) और (ख) . इण्डियन आयल कारपोरेशन ने ईराक, ईरान और सऊदी अरब की राष्ट्रीय तेल कम्पनियों के साथ अशोधित तेल का आयात करने के लिए समझौता किया है जिसका विवरण नीचे दिया है :—

देश	आयात की जाने वाली मात्रा	जिस अवधि के दौरान आयात किया जायेगा व अवधि
ईरान .	3.95	1972–1975
ईराक	1.00	1974
सऊदी अरब	3.3	1973–1975

(ग) गैर-तेल उत्पादक देशों से अशोधित तेल का आयात नही किया जा रहा है।

(घ) प्रश्न (ग) के सन्दर्भ में प्रश्न नही उठता ।

निर्वाचन प्रणाली में सुधार करने की मांग

1198. **श्री भारत सिंह चौहान :**
श्री फूल चन्द वर्मा :

क्या **विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या देश में वर्तमान निर्वाचन प्रणाली में सुधार करने के लिये मांग की जा रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस प्रकार की मांग करने वाले व्यक्तियो दलों और संस्थाओं के नाम क्या हैं और इस सम्बन्ध में उनकी मुख्य मांगें क्या हैं; और

(ग) इन मांगों को स्वीकार करने के लिये सरकार की क्या कठिनाइयां हैं ?

विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० सरोजिनी महिषी) : (क) और (ख) . अपेक्षित जानकारी देने वाले दो विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिये गये है । **[मंत्रालय में रखे गये। देखिये संख्या एल टी–8505/74]**

(ग) निस्संदेह उन सभी मांगों को जो वर्तमान निर्वाचन प्रणाली के सुधार से संबंधित सुझावों के रूप में रखी हुई है उस समय ध्यान में रखा जाएगा जब लोक प्रतिनिधित्व (संशोधन) विधेयक 1973, जो कि इस समय लोक सभा में विचाराधीन है, विचारार्थ रखा जाएगा ।

Applications pending with Government for submission to MRTP Commission

1199. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of applications are pending with Government for submission to Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission for its clearance;

(b) if so, the particulars and salient features of such applications;

(c) whether the delay in processing of the applications by Government has resulted in failure in reaching the targets of production by the applicants/industries; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to help to maintain the tempo of high production?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) No, Sir. In this context attention is invited to the general review in regard to the execution of the provisions of Chapter III in respect of concentration of economic power contained in Chapter I of the First Report on the Working and Administration of the M.R.T.P Act, 1969 for the period ended 31st December, 1971, read with para 4 of Chapter I of the Second Report for the year ended 31st December, 1972, both of which were laid on the Table of the House, wherein it was stated that in dealing with various applications under Chapter III of the Act, close scrutiny is exercised with reference to the broad guidelines laid down in Section 28 of the M.R.T.P. Act with particular reference to the list of 14 points enumerated at pages 3-4 of the former Report. The policy with regard to the necessity or otherwise of referring an application under Chapter III to the Commission has been explained in the said paragraphs of the relevant Reports

(b) Does not arise

(c) and (d). In pursuance of the revised industrial policy announced through a Press Note dated the 2nd February, 1973 Government decided to introduce with effect from the 1st November, 1973, a new system for processing industrial approvals, the essential feature of which is that decision should be communicated to applicants in respect of pre-investment approvals within certain time targets. The time target where MRTP clearance is involved will be 150 days. This time schedule is, by and large, being observed unless there is delay in obtaining information/data from applicant companies etc. The policy followed by the Government in the matter of industrial licensing is contained in the guidelines for Industries 1974-75, copies of which are placed in the Parliament Library of the House for reference by Members

Sale of counterfeit Railway Tickets through Railway Booking Office at V.T., Bombay

1200. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether counterfeit Railway Tickets are being sold through Railway Booking office at Victoria Terminus, Bombay;

(b) whether a person travelling from Bombay to Poona was arrested by Railway Police at V.T. for possessing counterfeit Railway Ticket purchased from the local Booking Office at V.T. recently; and

(c) if so, facts of the incident and the loss to the Railways therefrom?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c). On an information that irregularities were being committed by one of the Asstt. Coaching Clerks at Victoria Terminus Booking Offices, a check was conducted by the Vigilance Organisation of the Central Railway on 19-10-1974. During the course of the check, a ticket purchased by a passenger from the concerned Clerk was found to be fake On being questioned, the concerned Clerk admitted to have sold the said ticket and also produced 62 more forged Second Class Mail/Express tickets ex Bombay V T. to Poona. The concerned Booking Clerk has been placed under suspension. The case has since been referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation for further investigation The extent of loss suffered on this count is not fully known at this stage. On the same day, separately a passenger was arrested by the Government Railway Police as he was found to be travelling on a fake ticket purchased from Victoria Terminus Booking Office. However, the Railway Magistrate ordered his release when it came to light that counterfeit Railway tickets had been sold at the Booking Office at Victoria Terminus.

12 05 hrs

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAMINE CONDITION IN THE COUNTRY

MR SPEAKER Earlier I had received several notices of adjournment motion regarding famine condition in the country that is from Shri Samar Guha and sixteen other friends

Their names are

(1) Shri Samar Guha (2) Shri Jagdish Bhattacharyya (3) Shri S M Banerjee (4) Shri Madhu Limaye (5) Shri Jagannathrao Joshi (6) Shri Saroj Mukherjee, (7) Shri Noorul Huda (8) Shri Samir Mukherjee (9) Shri Krishna Chandra Halder (10) Shri Diren Bhattacharyya (11) Shri C K Chandrappan Shri Indrajit Gupta (12) Shri D K Panda Shri Ramavatar Shastri (13) Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu (14) Shri Biren Dutta (15) Shri Janeshwar Mishra (16) Shri Prasanabhai Mehta (17) Shri Ranen Sen Shri H N Mukherjee Shri Bhogendra Jha

As you know I examined all these Though I do not deny your right to raise this question yet all of them cannot be raised together So I found out which is containing the maximum point of view That is the one which is raised by Shri Samar Guha He has also secured first place in the ballot It reads as under

> 'Failure of the Government to effectively deal with the famine condition prevailing in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa Bihar Eastern UP and other parts of the country and arrange for adequate relief measures resulting in many thousand cases of starvation deaths'

I hold the matter to be in order and I give my consent to the moving of the motion The Member may ask for leave of the House

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) Sir I beg leave of the House to move the adjournment motion which reads as under

> Failure of the Government to effectively deal with the famine condition prevailing in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa Bihar Eastern UP MP and other parts of the country and arrange for adequate relief measures resulting in many thousand cases of starvation deaths

MR SPEAKER Is the leave opposed?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior) I request the Parliamentary Affairs Minister not to oppose this motion I know when there was a firing in the harijan colony a Congressman was allowed to bring forward an adjournment motion

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K RAGHU RAMAIAH) Sir even the other day when this matter came up I mentioned and I repeat the same We have of course absolutely no objection to any discussion but as you know, the form in which it has been put amounts to vote of censure We are not prepared for it

MR SPEAKER Those in favour of leave being granted may rise in their places The number is more than fifty So the leave is granted At what time do you want to discuss?

SHRI K RAGHU RAMAIAH As soon as the House re-assembles after lunch

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर): कई प्रिवलेज मोशंस हैं, एक गृह मंत्री के खिलाफ, एक कामर्स मिनिस्टर के खिलाफ—आप एक एक लेते जाएं ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उस दिन भी थीं । उसके बाद फिर आई हैं——

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): Let these be taken up tomorrow

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कल देखेंगे ।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I want your guidance as to how to protect the freedom of the press—something appeared about one Shri Vivekanand Mukherjee, Shri George Verghese and about three days ago about Mr. Subhash Chandra Sarkar of Search Light They have become the victims because they wanted to maintain the freedom of the press. (*Interruptions*).

MR SPEAKER: Mr Bosu, just listen to me.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, we seek your guidance as the custodian of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I have examined that. It may not be relevant to say under the adjournment. But, I shall allow you do raise it in some other form on some day I have no objection to that but not in this shape.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Thank you. I have given another notice ...

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, 377 में आप ने मुझे इजाजत दी थी पंजाब, राजस्थान और हरयाना में जो रुई के दाम गिर रहे हैं वह मामला उठाने के लिए । आप ने कहा था कि मंत्री महोदय बयान देंगे । कामर्स मिनिस्टर ने आज तक कोई बयान नहीं दिया । मैं ने मामला 11 तारीख को उठाया था और आज 19 तारीख बीत गई । एक हफ्ता हो गया ।

MR SPEAKER: Let him reply to it. The Commerce Minister should come with a statement. I think this matter was raised about a week back.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, there is a crash in jute prices

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bosu, when you write to me, do not take it that everything that you write will be admitted unless you are informed.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी बयान कब आएगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं उन को कह रहा हूं । आप क्या कहना चाहते हैं ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी आप आर्डर पेपर पर लाने का आदेश दीजिए तब वह बयान के साथ आएंगे ।

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): It may come up day after tomorrow.

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका) अंग्रेजों के चांसलर आफ दि एक्सचेकर ने अपने बजट भाषण में स्टर्लिंग डिवेल्यूएशन की जो गारंटी थी वह वापस ले ली है । ..(**व्यवधान**)..

[श्री मधु लिमये]

इसलिए स्टर्लिंग डिपाजिट्स और रुपी की एक्सटर्नल वैल्यू को संरक्षण देने के लिए क्या करना है इस के बारे में जो हमारा नोटिस है उस को 377 में लिया जाय ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अभी तो मैं ने एक लिया है ।

श्री मधु लिमये : यह बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है । आज नहीं तो कल लीजिए । तीन चार बार मैंने इस के बारे में नोटिस दिया ।

MR. SPEAKER: I shall look to that.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, you must pay your kind attention to that. It was in that context that I wrote to you. I was only making a submission that as a result of crash in jute prices in West Bengal, Assam and Bihar, rural economy is ruined. Now of course starvation deaths are taking place. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not get up unless you get my permission. All of you kindly sit down. The other day you said that I do not allow you. You know everything that what we discuss here is put up first in the Business Advisory Committee. And we get the allocation of time, subjects from them. Why do you everytime get up and say that the Speaker should not do this or that. You also participate in this meeting. You tell the House and the people outside that the Speaker does not allow you. What is all that? I am here talking of your previous observation. About the future I shall find some other time for that. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bosu, I am not allowing you. Please sit down. Do not get up. I am not calling any other Member. That notice has not been admitted. Now, Papers to be laid on the Table. Mr. Malaviya.

12.13 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

(1) The Kerosene (Fixation of Ceiling Prices) Third Amendment Order, 1974, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 393(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1974.

(2) The Light Diesel Oil (Fixation of Ceiling Prices) Second Amendment Order, 1974, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 394(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1974

(3) The Furnace Oil (Fixation of Ceiling Prices and Distribution) Second Amendment Order, 1974, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 395(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1974. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8491/74].

REPORT OF THE LAW COMMISSION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Fifty-Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Law Commission on the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8492/74].

REPORT re. DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR 1973 AND A COPY OF COMPULSORY DEPOSIT (INCOME-TAX PAYERS) SCHEME

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): On behalf of Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, I beg to relay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Deposit Insurance Corporation, Bombay, for the year ended the 31st December, 1973 along with the Audited Accounts, under sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, 1961. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8259/74].

I also beg to lay on his behalf:

(2) A copy of the Compulsory Deposit (Income-tax Payers) Scheme, 1974 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 463(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 1974, under sub-section (6) of section 19 of the Compulsory Deposit Scheme (Income-tax Payers) Act, 1974. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8493/74].

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (मुरेना) : आप के माध्यम से मैं सरकार का ध्यान दिला रहा हु गऊ रक्षा समिति जो बनी थी उस की रिपोर्ट अभी तक नही आई है और न वह कमेटी काम कर रही है । उस के मेम्बर इस्तीफा दे रहे है । कोई काम नही कर रहे हैं । तो मैं सरकार का ध्यान इस तरफ खीच रहा हूं , सरकार इस के ऊपर ध्यान दे ।

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhudas Patel.

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

(1) The Fertiliser (Control) Third Amendment Order, 1974, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 423(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th October, 1974.

(2) The Fertiliser (Control) Fourth Amendment Order, 1974, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 424(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th October, 1974.

[*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-8494/74].

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not able to work. May I request Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu not to interrupt when he is not called and when there is no information to him about the admission of motions?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): May be I am not interpreting the rules very correctly. I had given notice of a motion that the issue of the crashing of jute prices should be discussed.

MR. SPEAKER: All these members write to me. Only one is allowed. It does not mean that you write and therefore it must come. Please sit down.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Only I want to ask whether the Commerce Minister will make a statement on the crashing of jute prices.

MR. SPEAKER: Not unless I allow it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I had drawn your attention to your own observation made in this House sometime back when the late Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's statue was disfigured and you had passed strictures on the behaviour of the demonstrators. I want to bring to your notice and the notice of the House that on 6th November, 1974....

MR. SPEAKER : I have not given him permission. He cannot come in between other items.

Every minute you, some other members come out with your observation 'What is your opinion?', 'What is your judgment?', 'Why are you not passing strictures?'. After all, there should be some limit when you are dealing with the Chair. When I do not give permission to raise a matter, you just get up and say what you please.

Next—The Secretary-General to report a message from Rajya Sabha.

12.17 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

> "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1974, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th November, 1974."

DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1974, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

12.18 hrs.

DELHI SALES TAX BILL

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SELECT COMMITTEE

SHRI S. M SIDDAYA (Chamarajanagar): I move:

> "That this House do appoint Sarvashri C. Subramaniam, Satpal Kapur, Sudhakar Pandey and Dalip Singh to the Select Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the levy of tax on the sale of goods in the Union Territory of Delhi in the vacancies caused by the resignations of Sarvashri Y. B. Chavan, K. R

Ganesh, Vishwanath Pratap Singh and Buta Singh".

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do appoint Sarvashri C. Subramaniam, Satpal Kapur, Sudhakar Pandey and Dalip Singh to the Select Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the levy of tax on the sale of goods in the Union Territory of Delhi in the vacancies caused by the resignation of Sarva-Shri Y. B. Chavan, K. R. Ganesh, Vishwanath Pratap Singh and Buta Singh".

The motion was adopted.

12.19 hrs.

TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SELECT COMMITTEE

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul): I move:

"That this House do appoint Shri Chintamani Panigrahi to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957, the Gift-tax Act, 1958 and the Companies (Profits) Surtax Act, 1964 in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shri K. R. Ganesh"

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do appoint Shri Chintamani Panigrahi to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957, the Gift-tax Act, 1958 and the Companies (Profits) Surtax Act, 1964 in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shri K. R. Ganesh".

The motion was adopted.

12.20 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AWARD re: REINSTATEMENT OF EMPLOYEES OF HINDUSTAN ANTIBIOTICS LTD.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore): Under Rule 377 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha, I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance: the abnormal delay in the implementation of the award given by the Union Labour Minister and accepted by the then Union Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals, Shri D. K. Barooah, in regard to the demand for the reinstatement of the victimised employees of the antibiotics project in Rishikesh raised by the Antibiotics Karmachari Union of the AITUC and the threatened strike demanding implementation of the same.

The Rishikesh Antibiotics project, an IDPL unit, is an important public sector undertaking manufacturing life-saving drugs. I shall request the Minister to make a statement as to what steps have been taken to implement the recommendations and thus avert the strike.

MR. SPEAKER: Will the hon. Minister make a statement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): I shall make a statement.

12.21 hrs.

INDIAN TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL—*contd.*

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill. Shri Dinesh Joarder may continue his speech.

SHRI DINESH JOARDER (Malda): Yesterday, when we were discussing this Bill I pointed out how the services of this department were deteriorating day by day, particularly in the eastern zone and more particularly in Calcutta. The lines go out of order for months. Trunk channels remain out of order for long periods. Calcutta is being cut off from Delhi, Bombay and other cities. Most of the district telephone exchanges in West Bengal have become overloaded and the old boards have no capacity to provide for new connections. On 17 October I sent a telegram to the hon. Minister: "Malda telephone exchange collapsed—lines remaining dead for days together—all long distance trunk routes cut off since long past—immediate intervention solicited." I have not received any reply yet from the Minister I do not know whether the telegram reached his hands. This is the condition of services that we are receiving from the Post and Telegraphs Department. Almost all charges, mails, telegrams, trunk calls, local calls, telephone rentals have all been increased; there has been a cent per cent increase but this is the kind of service in return.

What is their relationship with labour? Workers are not getting any overtime allowances and their workload has increased because no appointments are made to fill up vacant posts and the workload has to be distributed among the existing staff. This way there is a deadlock in many places. There has been a ban on new recruitment though the workload has increased

The existing vacancies have not been filled. The medical facilities for the employees have been stopped. The DA which was being paid to 3 lakh extra departmental employees has been stopped. As against this, the number of gazetted officers like General Managers, Deputy General Managers and other high ranking officers—has increased by five or ten times. In Calcutta now there are 5 General Managers as against one previously. There are 15 to 20 Deputy General Managers. These officers have been taking the service to the collapsing stage.

They are also unnecessarily antagonising the employees by derecognising the unions which have majority support. In 1971 there was direct political intervention from the ministry and the trade union which had the largest support of the employees was derecognised. In 1974, on the 10th May there was a sympathetic strike by postal employees in support of the railway strike. For that reason, several hundreds of employees have been victimised. Their increments or promotions have been stopped. Some have been transferred. Certain categories of trade unions were also derecognised but due to the intervention of the courts, those recognitions have been restored. Because of all these factors, the employees are not able to perform their duties satisfactorily and there is a strained relationship between the management and the workers. There is no coordination, mutual help and cooperation in the different sections of the P. & T. Department.

In these circumstances, this new levy of Rs. 10 per application is unnecessary. The statement of objects and reasons says:

> "(i) to make the waiting list more realistic to enable correct planning for expansion of the telephone system;
>
> (ii) to eliminate unnecessary bogus demands for telephone connections;

(iii) on receipt of the application for a telephone, the Department has to incur some expenditure in the registration of the application, maintaining waiting lists and for the correspondence it has to undertake with applicants regarding position of their cases. . ." etc.

This cost is not so much that it can justify the levy of Rs. 10 per application. So, I oppose this Bill. When the telephone connections remain out of order for days and months together, are you giving proportionate refund? In most parts of the country the local telephone lines remain out of order for days together. Even after reporting their non-functioning to the telephone exchange, those lines are not restored. Are you going to give proportional refund to those who do not get proper service from you? These aspects have to be considered.

Yesterday I requested the Minister to let us know how many applications have been received under this scheme of payment of Rs. 10 since 1969, the date of the introduction of this system and out of those applications how many new connections you have provided to them. You are taking money from them for applying for new connections but for years together you are not able to give a new connection. There is no guarantee that they will get connection in their own life time. When you cannot give a guarantee about the time limit, it is highly illegal for you to take money without any service. On these grounds, I oppose this Bill and I would request the Minister to withdraw the Bill, because it will create unnecessary hardship and place an extra burden on people who want to have telephone lines.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill. I was listening to the hon. Member speaking from the other side. I agree with many of the points he mentioned though I disagree with him on many other issues.

The department has been bifurcated into the postal and telecommunication system The Government of India have taken a decision, I think correctly, that no further additional expenditure should be incurred on the creation of new posts. While this decision is strictly being followed in the case of posts of LDCs and UDCs, the top posts of General Managers are increased, only to provide more facilities and power to a group of people at the top of the hierarchy. You are depriving people at the lower level the normal opportunities of promotion while you create more posts at the top.

I am told that in one exchange the number of workers has been reduced and, at the same time, overtime has been stopped. They have reduced the hands from 22 to 18 or 16. While the Government may be saving Rs. 400 a week by this reduction in staff, they are losing about Rs. 7,000 by cancellation of calls because there is no proper attention given to the handling of calls. I can say from personal experience that in the case of Calicut, Trivandrum, Alleppey and Ernakulam the Government are losing thousands of rupees by cancellation of calls because there are not enough hands to look after the calls. So, I would request the Minister to examine whether this saving by reduction in staff is real saving.

Then I come to the delay in the delivery of telegrams I can quote dozens of cases where I have received the telegram after the letter, which was sent along with the telegram. I do not know at which end the mistake takes place. The position in Delhi is horrible. Telegrams from Kerala are received here very very late. I pointed out this to Shri Bahuguna when he was Minister but nothing has been done.

[Shri Vayalar Ravi]

When once I wanted to book a call to Quilon in Kerala I was told by the operator to contact the Overseas booking Centre at it is outside India! I do not blame him. India is a vast country and there are hundreds of places with peculiar names. So, you must post in such places people who can understand the different accents of English spoken in different States Unfortunately, it is not done. Also, the operators should be well conversant in English because most of the people who book the calls do not know the regional language of the capital.

Then, most of the time when we want to book a call we hear the standard reply that the line is out of order. It looks as if they have tape-recorded these words and whenever a call is booked they play these words.

There are some rules framed by the British which are still in force. Take the conditions of service of the postmen, delivery men or the ED employees. If one ED employee has to take leave, he has to apply a week in advance, with three copies in English. Suppose the mother or wife of one ED employee has fallen sick, he can take leave only after a week. Otherwise, he should have anticipated this illness a week before. Also, he has to write the application in English even though he does not know that language.

The ED employees are at the mercy of the postal inspector. They have to attend to the household work of the postal inspector. Otherwise, they will be victimised.

Even though harijans are entitled to be appointed to ED post offices, in Kerala they are being denied such appointments by the postal inspectors. Even though I have brought it to the notice of the PMG, I am sorry to say that nothing has been done.

In the Madan Kishore Report you have accepted those recommendations which are favourable to the department and not the other recommendations. One of the conditions for appointment to the ED is that one should have some other source of income. In Kerala because of the acute unemployment problem even graduates are trying to get employment in the ED post offices for a salary of Rs. 50 or 60. Since they can get employment in ED post offices only when they have some other employment or source of income, they are forced to tell a lie that they have some other employment.

When you are increasing the salary or dearness allowance of the other employees, you are not doing that in the case of ED employees. Your argument is that out of the total 7 lakh employees, half of them are ED employees. All the same, you can give them at least Rs. 100. After all, you are getting a profit of Rs. 150 crores. I am sure the Minister will agree that the postal department should not be merely a profit-earning department; it should provide good service conditions to its employees. The Madan Kishore Report should be examined thoroughly and implemented wherever it is praticable. I am sure that every MP will be familiar with the problems of ED employees in his constituency. This is a problem which should be dealt with in a humane manner.

There is a peculiar rule in this department under which there cannot be direct dialling if the distance is above 8 km. This rule is creating a lot of difficulty for contact between Alwaye and Ernakulam.

I want to ask: Is it not for the facilities of the people? You have to change the rules. It is an industrial belt. A large number of industries are there. The man who has to book a trunk call has to wait for hours. I can have a drive in 15 minutes. But if I book a trunk call, I have to wait for hours. Whenever we raise the matter, the Minister says that the rule is, 8 km. distance. Why don't you change the rule? You look to the facilities of the people of the country.

If the rule has to be changed, you change the rule.

This is not the position only of Kerala. The same problem is in Bhopal also which is the constituency of the hon. Minister. It is the same problem in Allahabad, in Calcutta, in different parts of the country. You change the rule. It will give more money to the Department. Unfortunately, you are not doing it. I appeal to you to do something about it.

Then, sometimes your officials behave very badly. I had received a letter—I believe, the letter is *mala fide*—saying, I am indebted to the Department for telephone bills of six months during last year, that is, 1973. Fortunately, my father had kept the receipts. I wrote back to the Department saying, "I have already paid all the telephone bills. Why do you send me a letter like this?". No reply has come. The Telephone Department man said, "You have remitted the money. This is a mistake." But your Department has never cared to express regret. Your Department black-mails me even though I have remitted the money. I think, it is deliberately done. I know why he has done it. Supposing I had not got the receipts with me, in what position would I have been? Your Department does not care to even send a reply to my letter and express regret. This is a kind of thing taking place. I regret the way in which it is being done

Lastly, being the President of one of the unions in the P & T, I regret the way in which some of the officers behave. I disagree with some of the unions because politically we cannot agree with them. I am also not in agreement with the political way of dealing with things. In Telicherry, in my hon. friend, Mr. Chandrappan's constituency, there is a lot of problem. I took up the matter with the D.E.T. But nothing has happened. One Congress member, a poor man, gets a telephone bill for Rs 1,000 or Rs. 1,200 for local calls. I think, it is purposely done with a political motive. Every time, he has to go to the District Manager saying, "Please condone my bill." Your Department never explains why it happens like that. Your Department never takes any action. It is a misuse of powers.

In conclusion, I would again appeal to the hon. Minister to go through the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. There are many anomalies and many ridiculous provisions which you have to amend and come before the House with a comprehensive Bill. It is a very very old Act. We are now an Independent country. It requires to be changed. About the working conditions of the employees, they should be given more facilities.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : इस विधेयक के जरिये सरकार टेलीफोन के आवेदकों से जो दस रुपये जमा करती है उसे नियमित बनाना चाहती है। जहां तक आवेदको से दस रुपये लेने का सवाल है मै इसका तो विरोधी नही हूं इस वास्ते कि टैलीफोन वही लोग लेते है जिन के पास साधन होते है, जो बिजिनेसमेन होते है और इस तरह के लोग जब सैकडों रुपया खर्च कर सकते है तो दस रुपये भी दे सकते है। मगर मै विरोधी इस बात का हू कि जब आप कहते है कि जिन लोगो ने दस रुपये दे दिए और आपने ले लिए वे टैलीफोन ले या नही उनको यह पैसा लोटाया नही जाएगा। जिन्हे आप टैलीफोन दे उनका पैसा तो आप जरूर रख ले लेकिन जिन को न दे उनका पैसा अपने पास रखने का आपको नैतिक अधिकार नही है। इस वास्ते इस में आप थोडा परिवर्तन करे। टैलीफोन जिन्हे मिल जाए उन से आप पैसे ले लें दस पये उनके आप रख लें और जिन्ह टैलीफोन न दिया जाए उनके रुपये आपको रिफंड कर देने चाहिये। पुराने बकाया के साथ भी यही

[श्री रामावतार शास्त्री]

बात की जानी चाहिये जिस को आप नियमित करना चाहते हैं ।

जहां तक आपके डाकतार विभाग में दक्षता का सम्बन्ध है वह बहुत कम है । लेकिन इसका अर्थ यह नहीं लगाया जाना चाहिये कि इसकी जवाबदेही कर्मचारियों पर ही है । इधर उधर कर्मचारीगण भी जवाबदेह हो सकते है लेकिन मुख्य बात यह नहीं है । मुख्य बात यह है कि उनको आप जो साधन देते हैं, काम करने का जो सामान देते है वह आप ठीक नहीं देते है । मैं पटना की बात जानता हू । पटना बिहार की राजधानी है । वहां टेलीग्राफ डिपार्टमेंट में जो यूनियन है उसका मैं प्रेजीडेंट भी हू । इस वास्ते वहां के हालात को मैं अच्छी तरह से जानता हू । वहां टी पी मशीन और स्टेबल चैनल्ज में गडबडी रहती है । इतना ही नहीं वहां हिन्दी की टी पी ट्रेनिंग की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है । बिहार के दूसरे इलाकों में आपने व्यवस्था कर दी है लेकिन वहां नहीं है । इसके अलावा वहां कर्मचारियों की संख्या भी कम है काम का बोझा उन पर ज्यादा है । कर्मचारियों की संख्या आप बढाए ताकि बेकारी भी दूर हो । उन्हें सुविधायें बहुत ही कम हैं । मान ले यदि कोई तार बाबू को ड्यूटी खत्म हो गई या बीच में उनको मौका मिला कुछ विश्राम करने का तो वहां डारमिटरी वगैरह की पूरी व्यवस्था नहीं है, चारपाइयां ठीक नहीं रहती हैं, कैटरिंग की व्यवस्था नहीं है । इस तरह की बातें और भी बहुत सी जगहों में होंगी जिस की जानकारी मुझे नहीं है । लेकिन मैं समझता हू कि जब एक जगह कठिनाइयां हैं तो हिन्दुस्तान की और जगहों में भी इस तरह की कठिनाइयां होंगी । कर्मचारी काम करने के लिए तैयार हैं, उन्हें आप पूरी सहूलियतें मुहैया करें । हम यूनियन के लोग उनको कहते है कि आप दयानतदारी से काम करें । वे इसके लिए तयार हैं लेकिन उनकी तरफ भी आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिये, उनकी जो कठिनाइयां है उनको भी आपको दूर करना चाहिये, उनको पूरी सहूलियतें आपको उपलब्ध करनी चाहिये । पटना के बारे में मैंने मंत्री महोदय को इसी महीने की ग्यारह तारीख को एक पत्र लिखा था जिस की प्राप्ति की सूचना उन्होंने मुझे दे दी है लेकिन इतना मात्र ही काफी नहीं है । जो गड़बड़ियां हैं उनको आपको दूर करना चाहिये ।

कर्मचारी असन्तुष्ट हैं । तृतीय वेतन आयोग ने उनके साथ न्याय नहीं किया है, पूरे केन्द्रीय कर्मचारियों के साथ न्याय नहीं किया है । उनके साथ न्याय होना चाहिये । इधर चार चार महंगाई भत्ते की उनकी इंस्टालमेंट्स ड्यू हो गई है लेकिन अभी तक उनको नहीं दी जा रही है । इस महंगाई के जमाने में वे कैसे जिन्दा रह सकते है, अपने बाल बच्चों का परवरिश कर सकते हैं, इसका अंदाजा आप कर सकते है । पे कमिशन ने उनके साथ अन्याय किया है, न्यायोचित ढंग से उनके साथ व्यवहार नहीं किया है । इधर आप महंगाई भत्ते की जो रकम उनको ड्यू हो गई है, चार इंस्टालमेंट्स ड्यू हो गई है उनको देने में भी होला हवाला कर रहे हैं, कभी

कहते हैं कि डिपाजिट कर देंगे, कभी कहते है कि आधा देंगे, कभी कहते है कुछ नही देंगे। कल केन्द्रीय कर्मचारियों ने जिन की संख्या आठ दस हजार थी। इस सवाल को लेकर वित्त मंत्री की कोठी के सामने प्रदर्शन किया था। मंत्री महोदय बाहर आए और उन्होंने उनको आश्वासन दिया था कि तीन हफ्ते में हम इसका फैसला कर देंगे। मेरा निवेदन है कि महंगाई भत्ते की उनकी जो चार इंस्टालमैंट्स ड्यू हो गई हैं वे उनको मिलनी चाहिये।

टैलीफोन व्यवस्था में बड़ी ही गड़बड़ी है। यहां भी होगी। लेकिन पटना की बात जानता हूं।

मेरे टेलीफोन नम्बर या एम पी के टेलिफोन नम्बर के लिए कहा जाता है कि वी आई पी टेलीफोन नम्बर है। सैकड़ो दफा में शिकायत कर चुका, पटना के बड़े बड़े अधिकारी इंजीनियर, एस डी ओ सभी आ कर मेरा फोन देख गए, आज तक वह ठीक नही हुआ। अपने से चार घंटे डेड हो जायगा और अपने से चालू हो जायगा। अजीब बात है, समझ में नही आती। जब शिकायत करते हैं तो बेचारे मेकेनिक आते हैं, देखते हैं, चेक करके कहते हैं कि लाईन तो ठीक है, एक्सचेंज में गड़बड़ी होगी। एक्सचेंज वाले कहते है कि एक्सचेंज तो ठीक है लाइन गड़बड़ होगी। मैं ने एक दफा नाराज हो कर कहा कि शर्मा जी के पास ले जा कर मैं अपना टेलीफोन दे दूंगा। यह मेरे टेलीफोन की हालत है तो आम जनता की क्या हालत होगी ?

आप ने टेलीफोन ऐडवाइजरी कमेटी बना रखी है उस में ऐसे लोग हैं जो स्कोपिंग मेम्बर है। वह भले रहे, जिन को आप की पेट्रोनेज मिलती है वही रहे, लेकिन उस की मीटिंग तो करवानी चाहिए। उस को मीटिंग करवाइए ताकि जनता को शिकायतों पर वह कमेटी विचार कर सके, जो पेंडिंग दरख्वास्तें है उन पर विचार कर सके, जो ट्रंक या टेलीफोन में कठिनाइयां है उन पर विचार कर सके। लेकिन ये सारी बातें होती नही। यह कमेटी केवल कागज पर है, बैठक इस की कभी होती नही। आप नियम बना दीजिए कि इतने दिनों में टेलीफोन सलाहकार समिति की बैठक हुआ करेगी और यह भी नियम बना दीजिए कि जो दो तीन मीटिंग्स में लगातार नही आए उस को हटा दिया जायगा। यह व्यवस्था आज नही है, इसीलिए न मीटिंग होती है और मीटिंग होती है तो लोग जाते भी कम हैं। सरकार अपनी ओर से पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरों को असेम्बली के मेम्बरों को और जनता से प्रतिनिधियों को समय समय पर बुलाइए, उन से राय ले खास तौर से बड़े बड़े शहरों में, वैसे होना तो सब जगह चाहिए लेकिन बड़े शहरों में इस तरह की व्यवस्था कम से कम कीजिए तो हम लोग भी कुछ बता सकते है। अभी पटना में टेलीफोन इतना खराब रहता है, लेकिन मैं ना कुछ नही बता सकता क्यों कि मैं टेलीफोन ऐडवाइजरी कमेटी का मेम्बर नहीं हूं। इसलिए इस की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। इस से आप के टेलीफोन डिपार्टमेंट की एफिशेंसी भी बढ़ेगी। हमारे जो एम्प्लाईज हैं आप के विभाग के अंदर उन का भी सहयोग आप लीजिए। कर्मचारी आप के साथ सहयोग करने के लिए तैयार है, इस बात में कि काम

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एक यह बड़े आश्चर्य की बात है कि पटना और दिल्ली में तो एस टी डी का सिस्टम है, दिल्ली मे पटना डायरेक्टर डायलिंग कर सकते है लेकिन दिल्ली मे कलकत्ता नही कर सकते। कलकत्ता भी एक बहुत बड़ा शहर है। कलकत्ता भी एक मेट्रोपोलिटन शहर है और दिल्ली भी एक मेट्रोपोलिटन शहर है। तो यह तो अन्याय है यहा की जनता और टेलीफोन उपभोक्ताओं के साथ और वहा के भी टेलीफोन उपभोक्ताओं के साथ कि वे डायरेक्ट डायलिंग नही कर सकते। इसी तरह से पटना मे कलकत्ते के लिए भी एस टी डी काल का सिस्टम नही है। तो मै चाहूगा कि जहा जहा इस तरह के बड़े बड़े शहर है उन को आप इस तरह मे जोडिए ताकि वे जल्दी आपस मे बात कर सकें डायल को घुमाए और बात हो जाय। अभी तो आप ने सुना कि अगर कोई मागता है कि ट्रक लाइन दे दी जाय तो कहते है कि लाइन खराब है और इस मे करप्शन भी बहुत है। आप के अफसरान पैसे लेते है। पैसे ले ले कर लाइन देते हैं मैं ने उदाहरण दिया था बिहार शरीफ का जो नालदा जिले का हेडक्वार्टर है, पटना का उदाहरण दिया लेकिन ये उदाहरण उन को फाइलों मे जा कर पड़े रह जाते है। उन पर कार्यवाही नहीं की जाती है। जो करप्ट आफिसर्स इस तरह की बातें करते हैं और उन के बारे में आप के ध्यान में बात लाई जाय तो प्राम्प्ट एक्शन होना चाहिए और कर्मचारियों के साथ न्याय होना चाहिए। आप के विभाग मे जो डिपार्टमेंटल कान्ट्रैक्टर और रोड्रूल्ड ट्राइब्ज के एम्प्लाईज है उन के प्रमोशन में बहुत शोषण बनती है। कोई देखता नही है। उन की तरफ भी आप ध्यान दीजिए।

इन्ही शब्दो के साथ में यह कहना चाहता हू कि जिन लोगो को आप ने टेलीफोन नही दिया है उन से आप दस रुपया वसूलिए नही, उन्हे रिफड कर दीजिए।

श्री चन्द लाल चन्द्राकर (दुर्ग) अध्यक्ष महोदय, चाहे तार के कर्मचारी हों चाहे डाक के कर्मचारी हो' या टेलीफोन के कर्मचारी हो रात दिन काम करते है। इन की ड्यूटी कभी दिन मे होती है, कभी रात मे, कभी दो बजे रात काम पर जाते है कभी 8 बजे सर्दी गर्मी हर मौसम मे इसी तरह ये काम पर आते जाते है लेकिन इन के लिए क्वाटरो की व्यवस्था इतनी कम है कि हमारे देश के अदर और दूसरे विभागो को जितने क्वार्टर मिलते है उन की तुलना मे इस विभाग के कर्मचारियो को बहुत ही कम क्वार्टर मिलते है। इसी तरह अभी मुझसे पूर्व बोलने वाले कुछ सदस्यो ने कहा है कि एकस्ट्रा-डिपार्टमेंटल एम्प्लाईज जो है उन का वेतन बहुत कम है। वे दिन भर काम करते है और दूर दूर के गावों मे जाते है। उन का वेतन बहुत ही कम होता है। मै आशा करूगा कि जल्दी से जल्दी उन के वेतन मे कुछ वृद्धि की जायगी।

हमारा जो स्टेट्स रीआर्गनाइजेशन कमीशन बना था उस में खास तौर पर यह सिफारिश की गई थी कि मध्य प्रदेश इतना बडा एक प्रदेश बन गया है, बहुत दूर दूर तक इस का क्षेत्र फैला हुआ है, पहाड़ और जगलों से भरा पड़ा है, तो इस की संचार व्यवस्था की ओर केन्द्रीय सरकार विशेष ध्यान दे। ... क

इस के बावजूद 27 साल की आजादी के बाद भी मध्य प्रदेश ऐसा प्रदेश है कि जहां न तो अधिक डाकखाने खुले है गावो मे न ही टेलीफोन की कोई खास व्यवस्था है । मै जानना चाहूंगा कि देश भर मे एक हजार व्यक्ति के पीछे कितने पोस्ट-आफिसेज है या कितने टेलीग्राफ आफिसज या टेलीफोन्स है ? इस से मालूम हो जायगा कि मध्य प्रदेश मे कितनी कम टेलीफोन की व्यवस्था है ।

भिलाई मे जो कारखाना है वह देश का सब से बडा कारखाना है इस माने मे कि 42 हजार स्थायी कर्मचारी एक मैनेजमेंट के अदर एक जगह काम करते है । इतना बडा कारखाना दूसरी किसी जगह नही है । लेकिन उस क्षेत्र मे अभी तक डायरेक्ट डायलिंग की व्यवस्था नही है । यहा तक कि मध्य प्रदेश मे किसी जगह भी डायरेक्ट डायलिंग की व्यवस्था नही है । भिलाई का इतना बडा कारखाना है जहा स्क्रैप इत्यादि के सिलसिले मे बम्बई कलकत्ता आदि सभी जगहो से लोग आते जाते है लेकिन टेलीफोन की व्यवस्था वहा बिलकुल नही है । भिलाई से लगे हुए तीन चार स्थान है दुर्ग, रसमीपार, इत्यादि लेकिन तीनो के लिए अलग अलग टलीफोन हैं और कुल पाच किलोमीटर के अदर ये तीन स्थान है लेकिन उन के लिए ट्रंक डायल करना पडता है । इसी तरह से मेम्बर पार्लियामेंट जब कभी अपने क्षेत्र को टेलीफोन करते है तो कई कई दिन तक लाइन नही मिलती मै अपना खुद का अनुभव बताता हू कि जब भी मैं टेलीफोन अपने क्षेत्र में करता हूं आठ आठ दिन तक लाइन नही मिलती । परसों रात को 6 बजे से 12 बजे तक और सवेरे फिर टेलीफोन करने की कोशिश की लेकिन लाइन नही मिली, ट्रंक डायलिंग की व्यवस्था इतनी खराब है ।

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt you. It is a limited Bill. It is not a general debate. In the case of Mr Shastri also I was listening but he came to relevancy after ten minutes.

श्री चन्दू लाल चन्द्राकर यह टेलीफोन के सिलसिले मे है, मै टेलीफोन के बारे मे ही कह रहा हू । (व्यवधान) मेरे पूर्व वक्ता भी ऐसे ही बोले है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वही तो मै देख रहा हू । मै तो यही बैठा रहूगा लेकिन कल को कोई पढेगा तो वह यही कहेगा कि स्पीकर भी ऐसे ही बैठा रहा और इस तरह से स्पीचेज होती रही । तो मै और कुछ नही, मै तो अपनी जस्टिफिकेशन कर रहा हू जिस से कल को कोई पढे तो मझे कुछ न कहे, इसलिए मै ने सोचा कि मै बतादू । यह आप सब लोगो को क्या हो रहा है ? आप लोगो ने एक टेलीफोन या टेलीग्राम का नाम सुन लिया और जो कुछ भी कहना था वह उस पर कह डाला । शास्त्री जो बोल रहे थे तो वह बीच बीच मे रेलीवेंट कही कही हो जाते थे । मै ने सोचा आप जर्नलिस्ट है, वह नही है, आप इस को ज्यादा पढे होगे ।

You better continue when we resume the discussion again.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Three Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT—*contd.*

FAMINE CONDITION IN THE COUNTRY

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now take up the motion that the House do now adjourn. Mr. Samar Guha.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): Sir, before you call upon Mr. Guha, may I say, with your permission, that you will kindly allocate the time in such a way that the debate is concluded by 6 o'clock because every time we are experiencing that we are sitting late causing inconvenience to the staff and the Members?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Guha.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I move:

> "That this House do now adjourn."

I do not know to what extent our human cord will respond to the pangs of hunger which caused the last breath of not one or two or hundreds but of thousands in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and other parts of the country. Having the fortune of subsidised meals in the railway canteen in Parliament House and having also the fortune of being frequently invited to lunch and dinner in five star hotels, I do not know, as I said earlier, whether our human feeling, our sympathetic cord, will respond to the sighs, the cries of those hungry millions who passed away and those who are still roaming in search of a morsal of food, a ladle-full of watery kicheri in different parts of the country.

On the 30th October, in my constituency of Contai, in the early morning when I got up, I found a dead body lying in the nearby area of house where I stayed. When the police was informed, they did not take any notice of it. The dead body was removed by the Satkar Samiti. On that very day noon, when I was passing by the side of the police station, I found a little girl trying to nurse her mother lying in a fainted condition. The mother and the daughter were going to take a meal from a gruel kitchen run by the Youth Congress Committee there. While I was coming back, I was surprised to find only the little girl standing in the queue. Going a few steps ahead, I found the still body of the mother of that girl lying there. The girl could not even weep for the mother who left her for ever; she was so much hungry that she left her mother to get a ladle-full of kicheri from the gruel kitchen.

On that very day 30th October, I was going to address a meeting at Balighai near Contai. Just on the way, I found in the bazar another dead body lying unclaimed. Another report came from Cooch-Behar. It was very prominently put out in almost all the West Bengal papers. In a gruel kitchen, there was a queue. A lady was found to carry a child in her arms standing in the queue before the gruel kitchen. When the food was distributed, the organisers of the kitchen were aghast to find that the mother left the child. Then it was found it was the body of the child still, dead, completely motionless. The mother had come with the dead child in her arms just to take advantage of the fact that she would get two units of watery kicheri from the gruel kitchen.

I will add many more tragic tales from press reports afterwards. I do not find there is any awareness in the Central Government that since the great famine of 1943 during the British days there had not been such an un-

presented famine that is now raging in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and other parts of the country.

I know that Government will stoutly oppose when I give the figures of starvation deaths. It is not my figure but the figure of the West Bengal Government circles which say that about 10,000 persons died of starvation in West Bengal. If you take the report of the all parties delegation that visited Delhi to meet the Prime Minister and also reports from Orissa and Assam, about 25,000 persons died of starvation in West Bengal, Assam and Orissa. A large number of them died of a type diarrhoea which is called cholera type; euphemistically it is called gastro enteritis. A large number who have died of famine are described as due to gastro enteritis. I shall now refer to the callousness, apathy and indefferent attitude of the Central Government to these tragic happenings. I do not know whether any country with a traditional civilisation could tolerate such a Government. Either the Government itself would have abdicated its power or people would have risen in revolt against such a callous Government to throw it out of power. I do not know whether the Government is to rule the people to death.

It is strange that the Central Government kept completely mum. Neither the President nor the Prime Minister nor any other minister made any statement. The Times of India gave some coverage but no national paper in New Delhi covered reports about this unprecedented famine. The Ministers are making torrential statements on other issues. I appealed to the President; I ran after the then Food Minister; but none of them cared to visit West Bengal or Assam or Orissa or M.P. This was a deliberate move to avoid the responsibility because if any of them made a statement that there were thousands of starvation deaths the responsibility of feeding those people would devolve upon them and it will assume a national character and turn out to be a national calamity and the Centre would be responsible to feed the famished people. When there is a national calamity it is the responsibility of the national Government at the Centre to solve the problem and feed the famished people.

I was really shocked that instead of accepting the tragic fact of starvation deaths, Babuji, who is the champion of the cause of the downtrodden people, the Harijans and the Adivasis, issued two statements denying these facts. On 20th October, he said at Patna,

> "None would be allowed to die of starvation. I cannot assure you full meal, but I can assure you that none would be allowed to die of starvation."

Then on 12th November, he said in Rome:

> "Although a large number of Indians were not getting enough to eat but nobody was starving in the country."
>
> "He further said that he had no figures on hunger problem in India but he did not think that people have starved to death. They do not get good quantity of nutrition."

At least I did not expect this from Babuji. Who are the people who are dying? Not the rich people who have the fortune to stay at 5 star hotels Not those who have the benefit of serving the Central Government and getting some benefits, but it is the adivasis the Harijans, the landless labourers, the down-trodden people for whom you raised the slogan *garibi hatao*. But today they have been completely removed from the world because *garibi* was the cause of their starvation and death.

Sir, I will start...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Start? We hope we would conclude this debate by 6 O' clock. On that basis you may take 20 minutes.

SHRI SMAR GUHA: I will take 40 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have already taken 14 minutes and you say "I will start...."

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: The debate will go on at least till 8 O'clock because it is a burning problem and so many from that side also will be speaking.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is correct that we often take more time than what is allotted. It depends on the subject. I agree that this is a very important and painful subject and we should not be too much inhibited by time. On the other hand, I also agree with the legitimate request made by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that it imposes a lot of difficulties on the staff if we sit very late. The House is the supreme authority to decide about it. I am only putting this to you that when the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs makes a request to me, I take note of it. When you submit your difficulties, I take note of it and ultimately it is for the House to regulate In any case, I want to pick up a quarrel with everybody. That is not my business. I am here to regulate. In any case, I want to draw your attention to this limitation. Some of the best things in the world can be said in one minute. May I tell one story? Lord Byron sat in an examination to describe about the mystery of water becoming wine. There were others and they wrote profusely. For a long time, he did not write anything. At last he put only one sentence, and that one sentence go the first prize for him. That was: "The water in the firskin became conscious of her Lord and blushed." So, one sentence can do the job

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: If you want me to express in one sentence, even if a red hot iron is put into the heart of these people, that would not rouse the sympathy of these people. It needs many more hot irons than one.

To start with my own constituency—I leave the other districts and other States to other speakers—in my constituency alone there have been 700 deaths. I will not say that all these deaths are due to starvation. There was gastro-enteritis, a cholera type of diarrhoea, sweeping the whole area. Here it is not a question of my word against the word of somebody else. The Governor of West Bengal, Shri Dias, who was once your Food Secretary, and "people are living on grass roots." If you go there you will find thousands of people who for three or four months have not taken a morsel of rice. They live on some milo, some makka, some wheat or some wild vegetables like kachus and other things. Only adulterated food is sold in the market. Tamarind seeds and sea-shells are dried and powdered and then it is mixed with atta. When people eat this they immediately become a victim of cholera type of diarrhoea According to the Indian Medical Association, there are 4,000 cases and about 700 people have died of cholera and diarrhoea and innumerable bodies are found in the streets. Distress sales of land, utensils and cattle are going on; they sell their children and mothers are found to sell even their bodies to feed their children

Now let me quote what a Congressman has said.

Mr. Nurul Islam General Secretary of the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee said:

> " 'starvation deaths' had been reported to the committee from different parts of the State."

There is another official statement on the 10th September with the caption "Over 100 starvation deaths in Bengal".

It says:

> "Over 100 people died of starvation in the two districts Bankura and Purulia during the past one month, according to the information sent to the State Secretariat by the official sources."

Then, your own Minister, Mr. Santosh roy, said:

"Fifteen million people in the rural areas of West Bengal are either starving or living on one meal a day."

The report says:

"....from district officials some reliable reports reaching two Ministers here spoke of at least 80 deaths due to malnutrition or want of food."

There is another report with the caption "250 starvation deaths in Cooch-Behar which is dated 21st September. Mr. Sisir Kishore Kar, MLA said:

"...during the last two months more than 60 people died of starvation in his sub-division (Tufanganj) while another Congress legislator, Mr Sunil Kar reported 75 starvation deaths in Sadar Sub-division."

There is another Railway BSF official report which says (26th September):

"Hunger goads them out of their village home, only to die unnoticed on the soulless concrete platform making it almost a daily affair now on the Cooch-Behar railway station.

Five such gaunt bodies unidentified, lay unclaimed at the railway station during the last five days bringing to 12 the total number of such bodies found at the station, official sources said.

Even before this months, according to BSF sources, 11 people have died of starvation in a single village of Kalamati under Dinhata police station... During the last 3 days, 5 people including a child died of malnutrition..."

This is what the Jalpaiguri Congress President, Shri Jagadananda Roy, said:

"The District Congress President, Shri Jagadananda Roy, MLA estimated that at least 400 people had died of starvation in his area lone..."

Then, a Congress MLA has said, in Calcutta, that 100 people had died of starvation in his constituency.

This is what your Congress President of West Bengal has said that the famine toll may be 1000. It says:

"The West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee President, Shri Arun Kumar Moitra said here yesterday that according to reports received from Congress workers at various districts as many as 1000 people had so far fallen victim to the famine conditions in the State."

I will give you another report that starvation deaths may reach 10.000. In West Bengal the famine situation has further deteriorated. It says:

"Even a State Government relief worker admitted that over 2000 persons have died of starvation and the figure may reach over 10,000 by the end of the third week of this month."

This is what the State Relief Minister, Shri Santosh Roy says:

"The State Relief Minister, Shri Sontosh Roy, officially stated three weeks ago that over 1.5 crore people were experiencing acute distress conditions and did not even get a meal once in a week. Now, this figure has crossed 22 million, reportedly mentioned by the A.I.C.C. General Secretary, Mrs. Purabi Mukherjee."

[Shri Samar Guha]

I do not know whether there is any necessity for further strengthening of what I have said, that 10,000 people have died of starvation in West Bengal. This is your official figure.

Now, I want to show you these photographs. I will leave it to the House to judge it. Babu Ji, these are the people; look at these people, these starvation deaths. I will lay the photographs on the Table of the House. You look at these people. Do you consider them as human beings? Are they not famished people? These are all from my constituency alone. Do you call them human beings? Look at the mother's dead body; the daughter is lying around. Look at these people. Are they not famished, starved people, the victims of starvation? Have you any human feeling? These are the starvation conditions in West Bengal.... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): Have you collected from Bangladesh in 1971?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Mr. Reddy, I tell you, I led a demonstration of 15,000 people in my constituency, people came only from 5 miles' area, because I could not provide transport. Even then, I did not want to exploit it for the purpose of politics. It was done by the Socialist Party. I did it in the name of Famine Resistance Committee, not in the name of the party because I did not want to exploit the food situation in the name of politics Don't try to judge each and everybody by the reflection you made. I do not want to tire you by reading from these reports. But I would only request you to go through the reports that have been published in West Bengal papers—horrowing tales, horirible tales. Is it possible in an independent country? We call ourselves a free country. We call ourselves a civilised people. We say we have foundamental rights. We say we have Directive Principles in our Constitution. We call ourselves a humanitarian people. If we have human blood in our veins, these reports should have moved us. These are not my reports. What a horrowing tale it is. How hundreds of people are dying. Yet the Central Government remains completely callous, completely indifferent and not a statement has come out from any of either the President or the Prime Minister or any of the Central Ministers.

To avoid the responsibility they say, these are not starvation deaths, but deaths due to malnutrition. That euphemistic word 'malnutrition' has been repeatedly used parrotlike, that rotten word that was used during the imperialist days....

SHRI DINESH JORDER (Malda): It was Churchill who used that word.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: They never used the word 'starvation death'. Now, we call ourselves progressives, we call ourselves socialists. We call ourselves members of a free country. You also use the same word and say 'They died of malnutrition, not due to starvation.'

What do the experts say? I will just give you a few words of what the experts say about this. Malnutrition is a misnomer. Dr. Jagadish Banerjee, one of the most eminent doctors of Calcutta—what did he say? He said that the "term 'malnutrition' may sound high-falutin and should not be used to rationalise the tragedy that from hunger they are heading to death, that those who are perishing on the platforms, pavements and villages were victims of mere deficiency of vitamins and minerals." Similar views have been expressed by all the eminent doctors and physicians of Calcutta. They die of starvation not by anything else. They get decayed without any food days in and days out and their flesh is being eaten by the stomach. Anybody who had been to jail or who had been on a hunger strike may

know that the man's body gets emaciated and how the stomach gets its food. It gets food from your own flesh, from your own protein, from the protein inside your body. A fasting man lives in that way. These starving people—do you call it malnutrition? Day in and day out, for months together they get themselves decayed that their flesh is absorved by the starving stomach. You call it malnutrition? I think the reason is that they want to avoid the responsibility of calling it 'starvation death'

Then, even during the British days there were Famine Codes. They used to prepare Famine Code for all the States. What is their definition of a famine? "The Commissioner or the Local Government on receipt of a telegram required by Sec. 40, may declare famine and the real criteria for gratuitous relief is that when nearly half the per cent of the population (according to the preceding census etc)." So, only half a per cent was required for declaring an area as famine area, but according to the West Bengal Government 10 per cent people are receiving relief, yet, West Bengal has not been declared famine state.

The British Government had an elaborate code as to how they should tackle a famine. Now, we are talking about relief, but we have not got any code in our free country We do not have such a code to see that if there is famine how the Government will tackle the problems and meet the situation We do not have such a code. We do not have any National Fund for the purpose; nothing is done in this regard. This is only making a mockery of relief.

It is stated that in West Bengal 22 million people are in starvation. What steps have been taken? They have not got a single pie from the Central Government. They have not given a single pie to West Bengal or Orissa or Bihar or any other State. This is the position. West Bengal Government have spent Rs. 10 crores, leaving aside the amount regarding maintenance, contingency and others, they could spend only Rs. 10 crores It would come to Rs. 5 per head That would give you only 1 1|2 kilo of rice or 2 1/2 kilo of Atta. How many days can you feed the people of 22 million at this rate? This will cover only for a week. What to speak of Opposition MP, even Congress MP is considered as a political pariah by the West Bengal Government. He has no say in the matters concerning his constituency An MLA has been made a mini-badsha in his constituency He gives the jobs in regard to the developmental projects He is not accountable to anybody. He does all the work, developmental work and everything in regard to relief and gruel kitchen As a result what we find is corruption, loot and politics This is not inter-party but intra-party politics. I should say. Whatever is being given large parts of them are being wasted due to the corruption and loot as I have mentioned This is the position, Sir.

If there was one Babuji from West Bengal in the Central Government, if there was one Chavan from West Bengal or Assam in the Central Government, not like dancing dolls, picked up puppets, such things would not have happened. They are waiting at the darbar, as dancing dolls at the behest of the Prime Minister whom they look as the Maharani of Prajatantric Bharat. If such a Minister from West Bengal or from Assam or from Orissa had been there he would have revolted against the Central Government for the callousness with which they have treated this problem The Chief Ministers of West Bengal or of other states are coming to Delhi; they look up at the Prime Minister as if she is the queen of democratic India. But if there was such a person as I mentioned, he would have thrown the bunch of keys of the Writers' Building at the face of the Writers' Building at the face Look here either you give us sufficient quantity of food to feed the

[Shri Samar Guha]

starving people or you yourself feed them or take the blemish for all the starvation deaths. This is what such persons would have told at the face of the Central Government.

Now you have become very pious and this is, with regard to the report of the Finance Commission. They said, no ad hoc grant should be granted in respect of national calamity and all that. They said no ad hoc grant should be given to any State. What is the amount spent by West Bengal Government? They have spent ten per cent from development expenditure. What is the amount for Maharashtra, Gujarat, M.P.? You have spent more than Rs. 300 crores last year. I do not grudge. But what has been done for West Bengal and other States? After all the Finance Commission is recommendatory body and suddenly you become very pious and accept this sort of recommendation. How can the West Bengal Govt. feed 22 million people there? Your attitude is not only ridiculous, it is heartless attitude when people are dying like this, when there have been reports of so many starvation deaths which have been reported. You suddenly become pious in this respect. This is what I wish to submit.

I am concluding by making following demands:

1. Government should declare the starvation areas in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Bihar, Eastern U.P., Madhya Pradesh and other parts of our country as famine areas and undertake the national responsibility of feeding the people of these areas.

2. A national commission should be set up to go into the reports of starvation deaths and make an immediate assessment of the requirements of feeding these starving people.

3. All parties relief committees should be set up to feed the people in the famine areas keeping the problem of famine above politics.

4. All international humanitarian agencies like CARE, CARITUS, CASA, etc. and other international bodies working in India should be urged to undertake massive relief work in the famine areas. (If you are in distress certainly other western countries who have exploited this country for centuries have a duty towards this country. There is nothing wrong in asking for their help).

5. The Government should continue to extend relief upto the month of January till the famished people are fit to undertake work in test relief projects.

6. Massive test relief work should be undertaken by integrating such works with development projects. All land revenues, or loans or debts etc. piled up on the cultivators should be quashed.

7. Students in the famine areas should be given adequate aid for their studies.

8. Massive drive for nutrition programme should be introduced.

9. Policy of levy on the cultivators in the famine areas should be revised.

10. The President, Prime Minister, Food Minister and other Central Ministers should immediately visit the famine areas.

I conclude in one sentence: Either in a free country you feed the famished people or if you have any conscience in you, you quit and leave the country to devils. You have already left the country in the hands of the devils because devils are taking lives of millions of our starving countrymen.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is difficult to contain an opposition Member like Mr. Guha within the time allotted to him but I expect the Members of the ruling party to cooperate with me in terms of the request of your own Minister and not mine.

Now, there are 10 Members from the Congress Party listed here and if I give 10 minutes to each Member it means one hour and forty minutes which is the time allotted to them. So, I will request them to confine within 10 minutes.

श्री नाथूराम मिर्धा (नागौर): माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सदन में आज विरोध पक्ष की तरफ से जो एडजार्नमेन्ट मोशन हमारे देश मे भुखमरो के हालात और दूसरी चीजों के बारे में बहस करने के लिये रखा गया है, उस पर मैं भी कुछ अपने विचार आप के सामने रखना चाहता हू । हमारा देश एक बहुत बड़ा देश है, जिस को आबादी 57 करोड़ है । उत्तर से पूर्व, पूर्व से पश्चिम और उत्तर से दक्षिण में दूर तक फैला हुआ देश है । हर साल कुदरत जो कठिनाइयां पैदा करती है उन के अनुसार कहीं बड़े पैमाने पर बाढ़ आती है और कहीं सूखा पड़ता है । इस वजह से देश के कृषि उत्पादन को हर साल बहुत बड़ा धक्का लगता है । कुदरत के इस धक्के से हमारे देश को उत्पादन की गति पर, देश के खाद्यान्न के हालात पर और दूसरे हालात पर इस का बहुत बड़ा कुप्रभाव पड़ता है ।

पिछले 30–32 वर्षों मे न सिर्फ हमारे देश में, बल्कि दुनिया में कुछ ऐसे हालात बने हैं कि जो विकासशील देश हैं, उन में जो शासकीय परिवर्तन हुए और उन परिवर्तनों के कारण दुनिया के देशों में जो खुशहाली आई, उस के परिणामस्वरूप लोगों की जीने की अवधि (लांगिविटी) बढ़ी । हमारे देश में भी जब हम आजाद हुए थे उस समय जीने की औसत आयु 28 साल थी, लेकिन आज वह औसत आयु 52 साल है । इसी प्रकार दुनिया के बहुत से देशों में, विशेषकर जो हमारे एशियाई देश हैं उन मे जो परिवर्तन हुआ, उस के परिणामस्वरूप जनसंख्या बहुत बड़ी तादाद में बढ़ी और जन संख्या के बढ़ने से उन के यहां हर तरह की चीजों की, खाने-पीने की चीजो की, दूसरी चीजों की, मांगे बढ़ी । दुनिया के अन्दर विज्ञान और टैक्नालाजी की भी तरक्की हुई, हमारे देश में भी हुई । खाद्यान्न में ही जब हम आजाद हुए थे, हमारा उत्पादन 500 लाख टन था, लेकिन उस के बाद दुगना और तिगुना उत्पादन हुआ, लेकिन उस के साथ साथ आबादी भी बहुत तेजी से बढ़ी, जिस का नतीजा यह हुआ कि जब इस तरह के कुप्रभाव कुदरत की तरफ से हमारे देश में होते हैं तो जो हमारा वितरण व्यवस्था है, जो हमारी हाट-बाजारों व्यवस्था है, जिस में जब लोग देखते हैं कि माल की कमी होने वाली है तो वे उस माल को रोक जाते हैं, थोड़ा ये दुकानदार रोकते हैं, थोड़ा कन्ज्यूमर रोकता है, थोड़ा उत्पादन करने वाले रोकते हैं––इस का हमारी वितरण व्यवस्था पर बहुत खराब असर पड़ता है और उस का परिणाम यह होता है कि जो हमारा कमजोर तबका है, जो गरीब लोग हैं उन को उस कठिनाई का सब से ज्यादा सामना करना पड़ता है ।

अभी श्री समर गुहा जी ने, जो बंगाल के एम० पी० हैं, अपने इलाके की हालतें बयान की, कुछ फोटो भी दिखलाये, कुछ

(श्री नाथूराम मिर्धा)

आकड़े भी उन्होंने रखे। उन्होंने कहा कि अब तक 25 हजार आदमी भूख से मर गये हैं। बहुत से अखबारों का उन्होंने जिक्र किया, कुछ कांग्रेस मैनों का भी उल्लेख किया जिन्होंने कहा है कि लोग भूख से मर रहे हैं। जहां तक आंकड़ों का सवाल है अलग अलग सूबों में अपने अपनी एजेन्सियों से जांच करवा कर जो आकड़े प्राप्त होते है उन के आधार पर जवाब दिये जाते है। वेस्ट बंगाल को ही ले लीजिये, वहां का सरकार ने जो आकड़े, इकट्ठे किये है उन के आधार पर वहां 700 स्टारवेशन डेथ्स हुई है। वहां जो जांच की गई, उस के बाद यह कहा गया कि दरअसल में वे भूख से नहीं मरे, लेकिन गरीबों के अन्दर जितना लोगों को खाने को चाहिये जब उतना नहीं मिलता है तो उन का शरीर जो कमजोर हो जाता है, उस के अन्दर से रेजिस्टेन्स पावर गिर जाती है, जिस के कारण उन को जल्दी इस संसार को छोड़ना पड़ता है। इस तरह के हालात हमारे देश के अन्दर कई इलाकों में है और इन को मीट करने के लिये हमारी सरकार, चाहे केन्द्रीय सरकार हो या राज्यों की सरकारें हो पूरी तरह से अपनी शक्ति और जोर से काम कर रही है। जब इस प्रकार के हालात हमारे सामने आते है तो हमें ऐसे इलाकों का भी ध्यान रखना चाहिये, उन के अन्दर धन की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये, परचेजिंग पावर बढ़ाने के लिये, वहां नये काम-काज खोलने की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये। इस दृष्टिकोण से, श्री समर गुहा जी का पता हुआ, हमारी सरकारें पीछे नहीं हैं, इस अक्तूबर महीने तक राज्य सरकारों और केन्द्रीय सरकार ने मिलकर अकाल की स्थिति का सामना करने के लिये अधिक से अधिक खर्चा किया है। चाहे बंगाल हो, बिहार हो, आसाम हो, उड़ीसा हो, मध्य प्रदेश हो, राजस्थान हो, यू०पी० हो या गुजरात हो इन की समस्या के हिसाब से जितने भी खर्च की जरूरत पड़ी हमारी सरकारों ने खर्च किया।

आज तक वेस्ट बंगाल में साढ़े 13 करोड़ रु० खर्च किये जा चुके हैं। करीब 900 रसोइया चल रहे है जहां चार लाख लोगों को मुफ्त भोजन दिया जाता है। आप का काम है हालात का न देखना और वहां आ कर लठैतबाजी करना। ऐग्रीकल्चर के बारे में मुझे विशेष जानकारी है। 1500 काम चल रहे है लोगों को काम काज देने के लिये और उन का परचेजिंग पावर बढ़ाने के लिये। सब से ज्यादा खाना भारत सरकार ने आप के वेस्ट बंगाल में पहुंचाया है पिछले 5 महीने का राशन का कोटा मैं ने देखा है जिस से पता चलता है कि 1 लाख 15 हजार टन अनाज वेस्ट बंगाल का दिया गया है, जब कि दूसरे राज्यों का जहां कि अकाल की स्थिति है 45,50 हजार टन ही दिया गया है। आप ज्यादा भूखे है इस के बारे में प्रान्तीय सरकार और केन्द्रीय सरकार जागरूक है और पूरी तरह से इन्तजाम किया जा रहा है। विरोधी दल के लोग अकाल और बाढ़ से परेशान नहीं है बल्कि कुछ और हालात से परेशान हैं और अपने तरीके से उन मुद्दों को यहां पर उठाते हैं। आप जरूर उठायें, यह आप का अधिकार है, लेकिन इस मामले में राजनीति नहीं लानी चाहिये। यद्यपि माननीय गुहा ने कहा कि राजनीति को ऐसे मामले में कम काम में लाना

हुं, लेकिन जो पाठ वह पढ़ रहे थे और माननीय जगजीवन राम जी को कह रहे थे उस से राजनीति स्पष्ट झलक रही थी। मैं मानता हूं कि कठिन परिस्थिति है, अकाल जहां पर भी पड़ा है उन इलाकों के अन्दर आज भी राज्य सरकारें पूरी तरह से जागरूक हैं और पशुओं के चारे का इंतजाम, लोगों के पीने के पानी का इंतजाम उन की परचेजिंग पावर बढ़ाने के लिये रिलीफ़ काम भी चल रहे हैं। आज गुजरात के अन्दर 4 लाख आदमी काम पर लगे हुए हैं और दो हजार काम चल रहे हैं। इसी तरह से मध्य प्रदेश में चार लाख लोगों को काम पर लगाया हुआ है और ज्यों ज्यों हालात मुश्किल होंगे और ज्यादा उत्पादक काम खोल कर लोगों की परचेजिंग पावर बढ़ायी जायगी और ऐसे काम हाथ में लिये जायेंगे जिन से कृषि उत्पादन बढ़े। फ़ाइनेंस कमीशन ने हालांकि राज्यों की सीमा बांध दी है फिर भी डेफ़िसिट फ़ाइनेंसिंग का ख्याल रखते हुए ऐसे कठिन अवसर पर भी लोगों को इज्जत से जीने का अवसर मिले इस दृष्टिकोण से जितने भी खाद्यान्न की जरूरत है उस की व्यवस्था की जायगी और की जा रही है। जो गेहूं और खरीफ़ के धान का प्रोक्योरमेंट चल रहा है और जो बाहर से लेना पड़ेगा उन सारी व्यवस्थाओं के प्रति राज्य सरकारें और केन्द्रीय सरकार जागरूक है और इस कथित परिस्थिति का मुकाबला करने के लिये दृढ़ संकल्प हैं। हम पूरी कोशिश करेंगे कि और मुझे विश्वास है कि हम मुश्किल को पार करेंगे और अगले साल कुछ और ज्यादा उत्पादन बढ़ा सकेंगे।

विरोधी दलों से मेरा कहना है कि वह जरूर अपना राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण रखें और अपने तरीके से काम करें, लेकिन इस समय जो हालात देश के सामने हैं उन का हल निकालने के लिये देश के एक नागरिक के नाते जनता के नुमाइन्दे होने के नाते, वे कुछ गहराई से सोचें और उन का हल निकालने की कोशिश करें, सरकार का हाथ बटायें। केवल एक ही तरह का दृष्टिकोण रख कर राष्ट्रीय प्रश्नों को हल नहीं किया जा सकता। उन को गरीब लोगों की मदद करने में सरकार का सहयोग करना चाहिये।

श्री समर गुह : आप के भाषण को खिलायेंगे उन को।

श्री नाथुराम मिर्धा : मैं ने आप को बातों का जवाब दिया है। खेद है कि उस समय आप सदन में नहीं थे।

इसलिये मुझे भरोसा है कि कांग्रेस पार्टी और उस की सरकारों जहां पर भी विपत्ति है उस का मुकाबला करने में आज तक सक्षम रही हैं, आज भी हैं और आगे भी सक्षम रहेगी और हम इस कठिन परिस्थिति से बाहर निकल सकेंगे।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I wish everybody is as co-operative. . . . (*Interruptions*). Mr. Samar Guha, you have had enough to speak; why do you not listen to others also?

I wish everybody is as co-operative as Mr. Mirdha. Before I call on Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu I should like to refer to a very interesting note that he has sent to me; he wants me to give him time commensurate with his party's strength. That is very legitimate. May I tell him that calculated on the basis that the debate will conclude at 6, the time commensurate with his party's strength is eight minutes.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : I shall take as little time as possible. . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Commensurate.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I never thought that you would catch it like this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will tell you nobody can say anything to me without being caught.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Today hunger and death are stalking various parts of the country. States like Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh are the worst victims. I should refer to a very reputed newspaper, Economic Times which in its editorial says:

> "The spectre of 1943 famine which had taken a toll of three million lives stalks in West Bengal again. Calcutta streets are crowded with famished people, taking crumps of food from garbage. whatever euphemism the State Government might resort to, the stark reality can no longer be ignored. More than one third of the State's population of 4.5 million are facing starvation due to drought, floods and cyclone. There is obviously enough food in the countryside..."

That is the most important thing, Babu Jagjivan Ram.

> "...conveniently hoarded under the protection of the garibi hatao sarkar and no serious dehoarding efforts have been made till recently. Voluntary efforts in Birbhum are reported to have led to arrests. . . ."

That means nothing at all. In Assam several thousands of people died of starvation in Dhubri sub-division of North Kamrup district. 74 per cent of the rural population of Assam are below the hunger line.

1500 hrs.

In West Bengal, about 17 million people by a rough estimate are under starvation. Different figures have been given about starvation deaths, but it runs into several thousands. In Gujarat, particularly Saurashtra and Kuch, 17 out of 19 districts are worst affected. 15 million people are starving there. When Mr. Morarji Desai visited certain areas in Gujarat, people demanded poison from him instead of food, because they could see no hope of life from the present Government. They knew they would only starve and die. North Bihar, where half the population of Bihar lives, is one of the worst affected areas. 9 out of 10 are starving there. In Kerala, the Government have admitted there have been 550 starvation deaths. The real number is much more. In Orissa, at least 5 million people are under starvation. Conditions in M.P. are equally bad.

This Government is bluffing not only its own men but it is bluffing the world. I am quoting from a foreign paper, *Far Eastern Economic Review*:

> "Hongkong, November 15, 1974. India is trying its utmost to soft-pedal reports of famine in some parts of the country. New Delhi has sent strict instructions to its diplomatic missions abroad that they should blindly deny stories in the international press saying that the problem is reaching serious proportions. The envoys are required to tell foreign officials that the situation has been exaggerated in the media. This is pricking some consciencess..."

That is the directive. I will quote an extract from the *Time* magazine, which I am told has a circulation of 50 million:

> "Nearly half a billion people are suffering from some form of hunger; ... India alone needs 8 to 10 million tons of food this year from outside sources or else as many as

30 million people might starve. Food riots have became common place in vast sections of India... In the Kutch district of drought stricken Gujarat, peasants patiently wait for dogs and vultures to finish picking at the carcasses of dead cattle... The hungry gather up the bones and sell them to mills where they are made into bone dust, a kind of fertiliser."

Such articles have come out at which my head hangs down in shame, but this Government is unperturb because they can behave like an ostrich, which can hide its head in the sand and think that others cannot see him!

Whilst Indira Gandhi is underplaying the whole thing, it could well be compared with the saying, "When Rome was burning, Nero was fiddling". Her crooney. Sardar Swaran Singh swore in a press conference in Washington that not a single starvation death has taken place. Tell me, what a big lie it is! It is an organised, well-arranged narration of lie. Like Indira Gandhi, like Minister. He never tells the truth. They conveniently suppressed the details that even the State Congress President in West Bengal mentioned, namely, thousand deaths due to starvation have taken place. I am quoting from the *Statesman*:

"At least 1,000 people had died of starvation and various diseases caused by the acute food scarcity in West Bengal, according to the reports received by the WBPCC from different districts, Mr. Arun Moitra, the PCC President said here."

It is not my saying or the saying of criticis, but of a spokesman of the party in power. The Minister of Relief in West Bengal says that the food situation in West Bengal is indeed extremely dangerous. There are so many like that. But in Cooch-Behar, the situation surpasses all civilised levels. What has happened in Cooch-Behar has been described by no less a person than an eminent journalist writting for the *Times of India* as follows:

"As I entered Cooch-Behar town last week, I was accosted by a man who implored me for help in cremating a boy, all skin and bone. I soon learnt that such cases are only too common. Often bodies of victims are abandoned on the roadside, at railway stations, in school verandahs, BDO's offices; village markets and even in backyards of private houses. At the present rate they will soon stop counting the dead and official records will show nothing even to suggest that there was a disaster."

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): How many did he see himself?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: He said he saw a number of dead bodies at the railway stations.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: He was told.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: For the benefit of the hon. Minister, I will read that report again:

"As I entered Cooch-Behar town last week I was accosted by a man who implored me for help in cremating a body, all skin and bone."

So, he saw the dead body.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Muvattupuzha): No, he has not seen the body.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I can only say that when a man is not sleeping you cannot wake him up.

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

The report further says:

> "..... the authorities have thought it necessary to organise official squads to dispose of bodies, often in batches."

Let there be an official machinery to find out whether it is true or not.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Somebody has told him this. That is all.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: *The Economic and Political Weekly* report further says:

> "The State's Relief Minister himself put the figure of the starving population at 15 million. Spokesmen of established political parties, including Ministers of the Congress, speak of starvation deaths by the hundreds Despite the government's attempts to seal off Calcutta from the onslaught of hungry villagers, the city's pavements, parks and porticos are cluttered with destitute families who have managed to sneak through the police vigilance"

It further says:

> "Hunger, of course, is a perennial experience for most people in rural West Bengal during these months of the year But it has not been experienced on the present scale for 31 years—not since the terrible days of the autumn of 1943."

Well, if you want. I can present this copy of the *Economic and Political Weekly* to the Food Minister

In the 24 Parganas the situation is equally bad Half the people that come to Calcutta, I should say, come from south of 24 Parganas. In Assam in Dhubri, North Kamrup the position is the same. In Bankura for the first time starvation has stalked the middle class.... (*bell rings*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Has he finished?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Stephen

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I shall make a note of the time which you give to every member and I shall dispute each one of them. It is not a joke. Do you think we are here as professional pleaders? I am terribly distressed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Well, I understand the anger, the righteous indignation of Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu I have drawn his attention to the limitation of time and to the request of the Minister of Parliamentary affairs. When I ring the bell it does not mean that I have asked him to stop I gave him the warning He had asked for time commensurate with the strength of his party and I had given him time commensurate to the strength of his party When I ring the bell, it does not mean that he should stop I have only given a warning.

But we cannot run this House if we show our pique on everything You don't like certain things and, therefore, you sat down in disgust. When you sat down, I saw you sat down in disgust. I turned to you and asked "Are you serious"" and you said, "Yes". Therefore, I called Mr Stephen We cannot run this House in this way We have to run it in a proper way

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I will take another 5-7 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you want another 5 minutes, I will give you 5 minutes. Mr. Stephen, let us hear him for another 5 minutes.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: About Bankura, the people who never dreamt of living on dole have to accept chapatis prepared on gruel kitchens. But to the middle class, starvation had never been so close as today It says:

> "Ovens have not been lit in many homes for days together but out of shame the people have not approached the relief organisations."

That is the condition of the people there.

The conditions are even worse in the district of Purulia. I was talking about Assam. It says:

> "Assam today is in the grip of famine. There have been reports of starvation deaths. Government sources have admitted that 74 per cent of the rural population are living below the hunger line.... Despite early indications of food shortage in March and April, the Government had held out false assurances of successful procurement and adequate stocks. .."

There are glaring instances of failure in Assam.

Then, this is from *Patriot*:

> "Believe it or not an eight-year-old boy sells in Assam for only Rs. 35 quite a bit cheaper than a medium-size goat. On 13 August, a group of newsmen visited an area of North Kamrup, said to be one of the worst flood-affected places in the State and met the eight-year-old Arfan Ali and his buyer Moslem Ali in the village of Kandhabari...."

This is what is happening very near o the place where you come from.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am very concerned about it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am very glad to hear it, I appreciate that

Coming to relief, it is only meeting the needs of 2 per cent of the population. Due to the in-fight amongst the ruling party and the stealing that goes on, even that is not reaching the common man. In relief camps that they have started in Assam, 150 gms. of broken cereals, boiled, are being given once in a day. Even there, the food is killing the people because the food is not quite good for the stomach of the starving person. So, deaths are taking place.

The other day, six Opposition MLAs from Assam came and they wanted to see the Prime Minister They waited for 10 days. They were, more or less, refused an interview. Then, at my instance, they were able to see Mr. Dhar. Mr. Dhar promised to visit the Golpara Diserict Later on, he declined to go. They insisted that if the food was not rushed to Golpara District, the death-toll which is at present about 100 per day will continue

The Government admitted that the shortage was marginal and the *per capita* availability of food was much more now. I will show you from the documents that I have brought here According to the reply given by the hon Minister, only yesterday, the total production of cereals in 1972-73 was 87 1 million tonnes and the total import of cereals was 6 97 lakh tonnes In 1973-74, it is much higher. The total production of cereals in 1973-74 is 93.9 million tonnes whereas the total import of cereals is 43 47 lakh tonnes. So, the per capita availability is more. But the production is 93.9 million tonnes. The *per capita* availability of food per week should be 3000 grammes or 3 kg. But in a place where there is full rationing they are getting only 1250 grammes

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

per week and in areas where there is modified rationing, they are given practically nothing. The rationing system is on the verge of collapse. The public distribution system is systematically dismantled in order to make room for the jotdars, black-marketeers and hoarders because if food is available through the public distribution system, the black-marketeers cannot flourish. So the black-marketeers should be given the freedom to loot in this '*Garibi Hatao*' and the public distribution system should be dismantled. That is the truth.

I want to say that this is happening in total surrender of the Government to the black-marketeers, hoarders and jotdars. Mrs. Indira Gandhi is running with the hare and hunting with the hound. For 800 million population there is no food problem and the finding is by no less than a team of American scientists some of whom are Nobel Laureates. But, in this country, after 27 years of freedom, not more than 22 per cent of the cultivable land is irrigated, flood prevention measures are very little, there is no drainage system and the Emergency Agricultural Production Programme and the rural Employment Crash Programme both have been utilised to further the cause of the Congress Party. In fact it has delivered nothing at all.

For the Kerala Government, the Central Government promised 80,000 tonnes of rice. They have been promising year after year at the rate of 12 ounces per adult hTis month they have been given only 25,000 tonnes. Now they have been given 2 kg of rice per family per week irrespective of the number of members in a family. The State produces cash crops and earns a lot of foreign exchange through sales of jute, tea, pepper, rubber and so many other commodities. It must be treated in a way, as the yuse teh land for the production of cash crops by not producing food items, that they are adequately compensated and they are not to come to the Central Government with a beggar's bowl year after year.

We have been demanding for a National Food Budget. Shri Jagjivan Ram has not paid any attention to it. Who is responsible for the starvation conditions in the country? Not the nautral calamity, but this pro-landlord, pro-hoarder policy 'of this government. What is the real way out? The Government should undertake the full responsibility of feed ng the people, wholesale States trading in foodgrains, commandeering the surplus foodgrains belonging to persons who own more than 10 acres of land, giving up this pro-landlord and pro-hoarder policy and stop the operation of black money and deficit financing must be stopped. Why don't you have a good procurement and distribution machinery? Because if you really strengthen the public distribution system and if you really keep the rationing system alive and meet the requirements of people, the black-marketeers, the hoarders who are the patron saints of this party and financiers and protectors of this party cannot survive and flourish. Therefore, they cannot remain in power. Therefore, you cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. To-day that is the condition.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Muvattupuzha): There is one point on which there is no difference of opinion in this House and that is that in the matter of food the country is passing through a difficult situation. No evidence is necessary, no statistics are necessary to prove that we are in a tight position as far as the food requirements are concerned. There is another matter on which there may be a difference of opinion, that this tightness in the matter of food is not exclusively Indian in character. It is an international phenomena to-day.

To emphasize that it is an international phenomena is not to make an attempt to reduce the gravity of the situation that our country is facing. Faced with this situation there are three approaches which are possible. One is to hold a determined position to handle the situation and to find out a solution by mutual cooperation and cooperative approach. The second approach is an approach of helplessness and despair and frustration and saying that everything is dark and there is no way out and so on That is the second type of approach. And the third approach is this. This is an approach of extreme callousness, callous glee saying now that the Government is caught in the wrong foot, let us make capital out of such a situation, and although expressing indignation and remorse at the kind of difficulties which this country is facing, nevertheless, manipulating things on the political plane in such a manner as to make the situation really more and more difficult These are the three different kinds of approaches which are possible.

The plea that I would like to put on behalf of my party is not to repudiate that there is no such difficult situation as we see today, that there is not even one starvation death, not to say everything is so easy and so on, but to plead that given the conditions that are obtaining in the country and in international plane, the Government has been doing whatever is possible, whatever is humanly possible to tackle the situation and that, had it not been for the efforts of this Government, (who tackled this problem with the highest of priority) the position would have really become dismally bad for this country. I would point my finger of accusation at my friends on the opposition because many of them are trying to make a political capital out of a difficult situation. They are doing it regardless of the repercussions which such things will have in this country, in regard to the things which do in the political plane, in the campaign plane and in the propaganda plane.

My friend Mr. Samar Guha made certain observations. He said that 25000 people died of starvation. Anybody is free to suggest what he likes. But let us not forget that we are dealing with human problems. We are dealing with human beings. When you say that there are so many starvation deaths, that there are deaths on such a large scale, you are doing a signal disservice to this country by placing such sorts of exaggerated statements before the House. I do not know on what basis he has said that. There is no report or statement of any such kind which we have come across We have to remember that when this country launched on her independence in 1947 we started with a population of 30 crores and today this has gone up to 56 crores. I am not saying that population moving up is a dangerous matter and we must battle against it or that we should bemoan that matter or anything of that sort. The fact remains that we had to feed 30 crores of people in 1947 and we have to feed 56 crores of people today And in addition to this, there can be no dispute on the fact that the standard of living of the people has gone up in the meanwhile. There is a large demand for foodgrains, at least in a particular section of the people in this country. In 1947 our imported figure of foodgrains was 60 lakhs tonnes This has progressively gone down to 18 lakhs in 1971 and in 1972, around 20 lakhs This country could feed its population without a recurrence of what we know as the Bengal Famine in 1943. There is considerable improvement in the food situation in the country Even Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu could not deny that production in this respect has gone up and the country is moving towards self-sufficiency in the matter of food. Let the credit be given to the Government when it is due, whether it be in the matter of implementation of land reforms, whether it be in the matter of giving better fertilisers

[Shri C. M. Stephen]

better supply of seeds, by more intensive and extensive cultivation and all that, because all these measures have resulted in the improvement of the food position in the country.

The position would have been better, the estimate would have been 115 million tonnes in 1972-73. Nobody can deny from 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74—for a continuous period of three years—we have been facing natural calamities of drought and floods. So much so that what was expected to be of the order of 115 million tonnes went down to 87 million tonnes and then as a result of intensive cultivation and drive it went up to 92 million tonnes. Even then the margin remained.

The question is how to get it around. Whether Government took measures to face the situation or not? Government did take measures. What measures Government took? Government reversed its plicy that there shall be no imports. Although from political angle there was opposition for import of foodgrains, saying that import of foodgrains from such and such quarter should not be allowed, even then Government garnered whatever foreign exchange they had and bought food at phenomenally high price. Our Government approached Russia and imported foodgrains to the tune of 2 million tonnes on loan basis. So much so that in 1973 Government was able to import to the extent of 6.2 million tonnes. This I say because it was out of the keenness and insight of the Government to see that the people's lot should not be allowed to suffer that the Government disregarding requirements of foreign exchange garnered whatever foreign exchange they could and imported foograins

Now, look to the public distribution system. An effort was made to strengthen public distribution system. That was the reason why Government announced that there will be wholesale take-over of foodgrains. We know what happened when this announcement was made. The political parties opposed it and launched a campaign against it and saw to it that that programme failed partially. So much so that the Government could only purchase to the extent of 4·45 million tonnes as against 8 million tonnes with the result that Government could not build up buffer stock. Nevertheless, taking up the figures we find that the public distribution system was being fed on a progressively higher scale. In 1970-71 the public distribution system had 8 million tonnes; in 1971-72 it had 7.8 million tonnes and in 1972-73 it had 11 4 million tonnes in 1973-74 the public distribution system had 11 million tonnes and as on date it has 9 5 million tonnes. That means on the public distribution system the foodgrains were being passed over to the people and the people are being sustained on the basis of public distribution system Now, Mr. Bosu said you have got sufficient foodgrains. You have managed to produce sufficient foodgrains. When Mr. Bosu underlines the position that there is sufficient foodgrains production and that the Government have imported sufficient foodgrain unwittingly he is paying complement to the Government that Government have managed to get this much in the country. But the difficulty he says is about hoarding, blackmarketing and the inffationary trend. There is inflationary trend.

Recently Government took steps to fight inflation. What was the attitude of the Opposition? They fought tooth and nail against those measures. They are fighting tooth and nail against the Ordinnce on smugglers and the Presidential Order. To them the fundemental right of an individual is greater than the fundemental right of the people of this country. To them the fundemental right of a smuggler is greater

than the fundemental right of the people to exist. Whatever step Government may take the Opposition wants to oppose it. Therefore, the Opposition's attitude is one of making political capital on the one side and sabotaging everything that the Government does to ease the situation.

The figures show that in the course of the last year the total raids conducted were 53,231 and the total foodgrains that were dehoarded were to the tune of 5.97 lakh tonnes. This de-hoarding took place and if dehoarding has to take place MISA will have to be used, people may have to be arrested and put in jail.

The question is: Here is a national problem. Is the Opposition prepared to cooperate with the Government to tackle the national problem? Actually, the Opposition is taking stand along with the anti-social elements and joining them to fight the Government and sabotage the Government. This is the position

Therefore, all that I submit is, there is no difference of opinion that there is crisis in this country; there is no difference of opinion that the country and all the nations are passing through difficulties. Burma which was exporting rice the other day is now itself in short supply. Soviet Russia after 60 years of revolutionary existence had to go to America to purchase wheat. China today is the biggest purchaser in the international market. They are now competing with India to purchase foodgrains in the international market. Nobody is self-sufficient. We know in Rome many countries assembled and said that the world is on the razor edge of starvation.

Ultimately, the question is whether we are prepared to remain as a family to fight this and tide over the crisis. I am an aggrieved party. Kerala gets only 25,000 tonnes. I have got to tell the people if rice is not available and wheat is available you consume wheat. If something else is available you have even to take that.

But, Sir that is not to say that the Government has discharged all their responsibilities. They have to intensify their drive against hoarders. They have to intensify their drive against anti-social elements and whatever the Opposition may say if it is necessary to nozzle down the people who are robbing the people even if you have to use 100 Presidential Orders to see that they do not scuttle the steps you take you have to do that. Now, on agricultural front we may even be required to have deviation in our policy. In ensification on the agricultural front is absolutely necessary. Industrialisation must be there but industrialisation cannot survive unless there is solid basis of agricultural production.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir I rise on a point of order. The adjournment motion relates specifically to the issue of starvation deaths and the relief provided either by the Central Government or the State Governments. He is talking about long-range programme. I want to know whether the speech that is being made by the hon. Member is relevant to the subject matter under discussion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am very happy that this point has been raised by Mr Guha. My seat will be more comfortable if Mr Guha remembers this and is more mindful about relevancy. In this case he wants to know as to whether what Mr. Stephen is saying is relevant or not.

Now, the case that was cited is this. There is a charge on you that you are making a political capital out of the sufferings of the country.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

Rightly or wrongly this is the impression that you conveyed. Mr. Stephen is trying to rebut that. Is that so?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I only want to make a submission to you. I am grateful to you to remind me about this The point that we made is as per the official report about the starvation deaths and the amount of relief given, Is this not a relevant thing?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Anyway that is for the House to decide. I have given my ruling only on the limited question about the relevancy.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: About a couple of sentences more and I have done. Mr. Basu has made a reference to Kerala. Well, Sir, I do want to focus the case of Kerala. As the hon. Member said we are rice-eating people and we are deficit to the extent of fifty per cent of our requirements. That is why the zonal arrangement has been created—the State Zonal arrangement—and I am not disputing that. The basis of this arrangement was that the surrounding States—Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh—would together meet our requirements so that we may be able to carry on. What happened now is that Kerala is sealed off. We cannot purchase the foodgrains from outside. Every State is sealed off on the solemn undertaking that the States will take care of us. That was the basis on which this arrangement was made But, what happened was this. The Tamil Nadu does not supply that: Andhra Pradesh does supply its quota. The other States have failed,

The present position today is that the Central Government accepts the responsibility to feed different States. But, the Central Government have no right and the authority, constitutional or otherwise, to make procurements in different States. You have the responsibility but you do not have the machinery in order to procure the foodgrains. You have got such an arrangement. I support Mr. Bosu when he says that there must be a national food policy. That national food policy is not merely for measuring up and budgeting through but of getting whatever surplus is available throughout the country. That arrangement has got to take place. And this is a matter and I want to pinpoint on that. I call the attention of the hon. Minister to that.

I want to say in the end one thing My submission is that the Government is going on correct lines but it is the Opposition which is scuttling the whole thing. They feel that by scuttling this thing in this way they can make us weak Because we are strong, and the country will go ahead

SHRI H N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta-North-East): Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in a thin House and in an atmosphere of characteristically listless indifference, we are discussing the question which affects our people most vitally.

I am happy that Shri Samar Guha has been enabled to have this opportunity of putting forward the motion which implies a reprimand on the Administration. I recall something which I did a long time ago when I noticed the ineptitudes of this Government that one can sometimes understand why people are wicked or incapable. But, one cannot understand why we are not ashamed.

As far as the present economic conditions in the country are concerned, I am sure, my friend, the Agriculture Minister will agree with me that the shades of 1943 had appeared. It is not a job that we have been able to dispel those shades. The fact is that after twentyfive years of our Independence, people die of starvation in the streets of our towns and in our

villages. They come to the Railway Stations in search of food and some kind of occupation to keep themselves alive and they die—these men, women and children. If this is the condition of things to which we are reduced, I expect the Government of this country at least to come before our people with sack cloth and ashes to tell them that we are very sorry about what happened.

In 1952, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru when he was told that he had given an assurance that all imports of food would be stopped in a little while, answered frankly—I am quoting his words—

> "I regret that my words have been falsified and I feel thoroughly ashamed that what was almost a pledge to the country has been broken".

He had the guts to say, the moral and intellectual guts to say that but the Government of today is callous, is cynical, is criminal in so far as the condition of the people is concerned.

In so far as other problems were concerned, after the partition, so many problems came and Jawaharlal said in the Provisional Parliament—I am quoting his words—

> "In fact, I have often wondered why the people of India put up with people like me who was connected with the governing of India after all that has happened during the last few months. I am not quite sure that if I had not been in the government, I would put up with my government".

The people put up with him because he could appear before them as a human being and speak to them in a voice of humanity, but here the Government tries to dismiss the reports about starvation. How do you dismiss them? Mr. B. K. Daschowdhury is from Cooch-Behar. I have no time to refer to reports about the eerie scenes in Cooch-Behar, the distress of the people there. Shri Samar Guha has gone a good of it. I am sure about it. Can he deny the kind of thing which has happened? Have not the Minister of Relief of West Bengal, Mr. Santosh Roy or some such person —I do not remember names—and other MLAs of the Congress Party said repeatedly that in Cooch-Behar railway station and elsewhere dead bodies were found and they were dead because they did not have anything to eat? They could not keep themselves alive in God's good earth. Is it not true that Shri Ram Sahay Pandey gave a special interview to newspapers explaining how in some of his areas in Madhya Pradesh people had to live for more than two weeks on leaves of trees in the jungles and then they died? That was a statement he made to the press and now Mr. Stephen—I am glad he put his case comparatively moderately for him· I was afraid he would out-Stephen Mr. Stephen—even he tried to defend the case by saying, 'No, no, not very much has happened'. How much do you wish to happen? Do you wish a re-enactment of 1943? Would you be happy? Would the Opposition be happy? Would we be happy. Does it make us happy to say that people are dying that parents are selling their children in order to get the wherewithal for life, that young women are having to sell their flesh because female flesh is dear to some people of a certain fashion? Does it make us happy to say these things or do we have to say these things because conditions have become too dismal?

I was abroad recently and I found pigs in most countries are better fed than human beings in this country? Are we going to stand this sort of things? And for how long? Do not be cynical, do not be callous, because in that case you would be political criminals of the first water and the country will throw you out. There is no doubt about it.

We have an acquiescent society, 4,000 years of social hierarchy which

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

never changes. Shri Jagjivan Ram knows in the blood of his blood and in the bone of his bones that we are an accquiescent society; we do not change But beware of the theory of a patient people: when a patient people turn, they will turn in a manner which you and I would all have to regret That is why we want a change in our policy We want intelligent application of patriotic interests in so far as the solutions of our problems are concerned. Unlike Jawaharlal Nehru this Government cynically disregards the sensitivity of our people

Starvation deaths have taken place I had occasion to say once before asking an adjournment motion last session that the Government of West Bengal had the gumption to say that these deaths are not on account of starvation but on account of malnutrition Malnutrition--my foot. They died because of malnutrition and not lack of nutrition, wrong nutrition. They ate leaves of trees which are not edible They did not die of starvation! Nobody dies unless the heart stops; so everybody dies of heart failure; nobody ever dies of any other disease? Starvation and starvation alone is the reason. In Calcutta I have seen things which remind me of 1943. People come with a begging bowl in their hands and cry for a little rice or watery gruel Heaven knows for how long our people would have to live like this and how long the langarkhanas should be there, how long would it be necessary for the bourgeois civilisation to exercise its philanthrophy and have these miserable relief camps? I know relief camps have to be opened because they have to be fed. For how long are we going to keep our poor and destitute in special camps and feed them? Are not they human beings, just like you and me? We all live in air conditioned comfort and we make speeches. How long is this kind of thing going to continue? That is a question which should be in the mind of everybody. That is why when elections become the topic, you all get jittery; we all get jittery because our people, if they really ask questions, will never get answers. What answers have we got to give them? Cannot we feed them? Many things are said. The global situation is wrong; the inflation is there, this, that and the other thing Does that feed you? Why should our people accept your idea: the population problem is terrible; the Rome Conference would be something, let us wait for twenty years more. It cannot happen That is not politics; that is not life We have to do something about it

Have you got that sense of urgency? I ask you. Congress Members, many of you, are our friends. I am prepared to trust you. That is why I sometimes pursue policies which may not be liked by my friends on this side. But I ask: are you serious? If you are genuinely serious, what measures are you taking? Mr. Jagjivan Ram came up and said the other day that there was no real shortage and if whatever was available could be distributed in a humane fashion, the problem could be solved. God bless you, go ahead and do something about mobilising the enthusiasm of the people. Get P. R. Das Munsi and the rest of them and get others from the other camps also and get a real food corps, young people who would work and get rid of your miserable bureaucracy which stands in the way. Mr. Stephen had the gumption to say that the opposition sabotaged the idea of the taking over the whole sale trade in foodgrains. What a wonderful idea? For a Government Party Member, for Mr. Stehen to say that we on this side, some of us have sabotaged and defeated your policies, what kind of a Government or you? You say you adopt a certain policy and then you put up some excuses and say that because of Jansangh and Swantantra

you can't do something. Is that politics? Is that understanding? Is that humanism? I do not understand. This country should try to wake up to its responsibilities. I have a hell of a lot of material but how do I deal with them, when this thing is a human problem. Gandhiji had said and said this repeatedly. No sophistry, no jugglery in figures, no argumentation can explain away the things in Calcutta and elsewhere. From Assam to Gujarat in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal and Cooch Bihar, Midnapur, Bankura and Purulia and so many other places, people see what is happening. No sophistry, no jugglery in figures and no argumentation can explain away that thing. Something has got to be done about it. But I do not see any sign of an awareness of this. We have had a plan for so many years. Why is it that we hear today a repetition of what we heard in the British days, when the Budget of British India was supposed to be a gamble on the monsoon. Even now why do you say that? You had a great green revolution which had produced wounderful results. Now you say that the monsoon has behaved badly. Drought on the one hand and floods on the other have combined to bring about famine all over the country. Why do you say so? Why does it happen in 1972? We can deal with problem which had been created on account of the Bangla Desh crisis Why don't we have foresight enough to do something about today? I am not going to blame you only for what has happened before. But do something here and now. What is the idea of a Plan? Do we still live in a completely anarchic society? My friend Shri D. N. Tiwari is here and from 1952 onwards in every session he points out that Champaran continues to be one of the most backward areas. Nothing has happened there. Gandhiji started movement in Champaran because people there lived under very difficult conditions. Champaran is very much the same even today, the condition is the same. Then why have we a Plan? What is the idea? That being so is it not necessary for us to examine the implication of what is happening? Why is there, at the same time co-existence, talk about self reliance and talks about aid from western powers in particular looking forward to Kissinger's visit and all the rest of it? Why should we go on having this kind of plan?

Sir, I do not wish to prolong the agony of myself and of my friends. This is not a matter of more argumentation and putting up figures. I have got a whole lot of figures, but it is no good referring to these things. What are you going to do about it? Your public distribution system has, if it has not collapsed, at least broken down to such extent which is most damaging to the country. In West Bengal in particular where the political climate is important for the future of your Government and for the country as a whole, the temperature of the people is at the boiling point because things cannot be tolerated in this manner much longer. But that is not the only point We have to do something all together in order to solve this problem. For that, Government first of all has to have the humility to go before the country and say that they are ashamed about their non-performance of what they should have performed. They should have the humility to go before the young people and tell them that they have now been able to satisfy their aspirations and their soaring hopes, but now they are trying to mobilise them in a countywide effort. That means injection into the bureaucracy and the apparatus of administration of a qualitative medicine, which this Government seems unable to bring into the picture and that is the participation of the people. Dr. B. C. Roy once tries to change the definition of democracy given by Abraham Lincoln by saying. "Government of the people, by the people, for the peole and with the people". He added, "Government with the people" to the definition. It is a good idea, the participation of the people in everything. You will get

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

that only if you have genuinely radical policies, in which you invite the other parties to cooperate with you. It is only on that basis that you can do it. Do adopt those policies if possible you have the least little intention of doing something good to the country. Otherwise, this situation cannot last. We are speaking only a few days after the birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru. He used to to care a great deal about children. Today a hundred million children, on a very low computation, go to sleep every night hungry from day to day, from years to years on end. This is the condition. Here is a country where 14 million children go blind because there is protein deficiency in their food We talk about the greatness and glory of our country, the grandeur of our political leadership and so on. We have the gumption to do that. I ask the Government to have some humility, go before the people and tell them that they are ashamed of their inability so far to deliver the goods to the people which they are under promise to do. Then they can go forward, if they possibly can, to proceed with those radical policies which have been repeatedly adumbrated It is on that basis that I support Mr. Samar Guha's motion. I believe this Government deserves and requires a slap in the face, a reprimand, on account of their failure in the sphere of their food policy.

श्री नवल किशोर सिंह (मुजफ्फरपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जब इस सदन के अन्दर भाषणों को मैं सुनता हूं तो मन में बहुत से प्रश्न उठ खड़े होते हैं । किन्हीं भाषणों में भावों का ऐसा उद्वेग होता है, ऐसी उड़ान होती है कि उस में बह जाने का जी चाहता है और किन्हीं भाषणों में भाषा का सौष्ठव और उस की सुन्दरता ऐसी होती है कि वह बहा कर ले जाती है । लेकिन हम लोग जिस विषय पर विचार कर रहे हैं उस में न तो भावों को उड़ान के लिए जगह है न भाषा की सुन्दरता के लिए । अभी प्रोफेसर एच एन मुखर्जी साहब का भाषण मैं ने सुना । मैं उन का बहुत बड़ा भक्त हूं । वह जब बोलते हैं, उन का एक शब्द भी मैं मिस नहीं करना चाहता । वह जब बोलते हैं तो ऐसा लगता है कि हिन्दी की कहावत के अनुसार उन की जिह्वा पर स्वयं सरस्वती विराजती हैं, लेकिन उन के इतने सुन्दर भाषण में मैं तो उन का एक ही सुझाव सुना और समझा कि शासक दल और विरोधी दलों का कोई एक शामिल फूड-कोर बनना चाहिए जिस में सभवत. उन के कथन के अनुसार श्री पी० आर० दास मुंशी से लेकर श्री ज्योतिर्मय बसु तक को होना चाहिए । मुझे मालूम नहीं है कि यहां ऐसा हुआ है या नहीं लेकिन एक कोशिश हुई है बिहार में ।

15 56 hrs.

[DR. HENRY AUSTIN *in the Chair*]

बिहार के मुख्य मंत्री ने एक बार विरोधी दल के नेताओं को यह दावत दी कि वे एक फूड कौंसिल में आ कर बिहार की खाद्य समस्या का समाधान और निदान करने की कोशिश करें और उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि प्रत्येक व्यक्ति जो इस फूड कौंसिल का सदस्य होगा उस की कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर की स्टेटस होगी । लेकिन विरोधी दलों ने मुख्य मंत्री के साथ मिल कर फूड कौंसिल में आना स्वीकार नहीं किया । इंडिविजुअली कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर की स्टेटस पाकर भी काम करने को वे तैयार नहीं हुए । इस से पता लगता है और मैं प्रोफेसर मुखर्जी से बहुत दुख के साथ यह

कहना चाहता हूं कि दरअसल अधिकांश विरोधी सदस्य शामिल होकर काम करना नहीं चाहते । मुखर्जी साहब के दल वाले अवश्य वहां इस काम को करने के लिए तैयार थे लेकिन एक सीमित सीमा तक ही वे भी तैयार थे, उस से आगे बढ़ने के लिए तैयार नहीं थे । तो विरोधी दलों के लोग मिल कर यह काम करने को तैयार नहीं हैं, इस से मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि इन देश में जो खाद्य समस्या है और जो अकाल वगैरह की बातें हैं, बिल्कुल राजनीति की दृष्टि से हम इस पर विचार करते हैं और वोट की दृष्टि से सोचते हैं । अगर हम सब के सब इस मामले में सिंसियर होते कि हम इस समस्या का निदान खोजें तो जैसा उन्होंने बताया है हम यहां और राज्यों में इस तरफ काफी कुछ प्रगति कर सकते थे ।

हिन्दुस्तान में ही नहीं, बहुत से प्रगतिशील देशों में कृषि प्रगति के साथ एक गैम्बल है और प्रकृति पर कोई विजय नहीं पा सकता पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने एक बार कहा था कि :

> "All talks about conquest of nature is bunkum. We can only adjust with nature."

इसलिए यह समस्या सरकारों के सामने हमेशा रहेगी । किसी साल अनाज ज्यादा होगा, किसी साल कम होगा । मैंने किसी माननीय सदस्य को यह कहते हुए सुना कि इतनी ही सिंचाई का इंतजाम हो पाया है, लेकिन एक किसान होने के नाते मैं माननीय सदस्य को विश्वास दिला सकता हूं कि कितना भी सिंचाई का इंतजाम ठीक हो लेकिन फिर भी वर्षा आप के अनुकूल न हो तो उत्पादन आप के मनोनकूल नहीं होगा । इस वास्तविक सत्य को अपने सामने रख कर हमें इस पर विचार करना चाहिए, तभी हम इस विषय के साथ और मुल्क की जनता के साथ न्याय कर सकेंगे ।

एक अर्ज मैं और करना चाहता हूं । हम जो यहां कुछ बोलते है वे बातें यहीं तक सीमित नहीं रहती हैं, बाहर भी जाती हैं । इसलिये हमें कोई ऐसी बात नहीं करनी चाहिये जिससे कि जो साइकोलाजी आफ शार्टेज हमारे देश में है वह बढ़े । कोई स्केयर पैदा हो । उस की कोशिश नहीं होनी चाहिए । वहां इतने मर गए, इतने भूखे हैं, वहां इतने बिक रहे है, इतने बच्चे बिक रहे है, वहां स्त्रियां बिक रही है, अगर इस तरह की बातें हम इस मन से कहना शुरू करेंगे तो हमें भय है न हम अपने साथ न्याय करेंगे न अपने देश की जनता के साथ न्याय करेंगे ।

16.00 hrs.

इस लिए मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि शार्टेज और स्केयर सिटी की साइकालोजी इस देश में बनाना अच्छी बात नहीं है । हम को चाहिये । कि हम बिलकुल ठोस और पक्की बात करें ।

प्रो० मुखर्जी साहब, जिन के लिये जैसा मैंने शुरू में कहा और अब फिर दोहरा देता हूं, उन की बाचा-शक्ति की मेरे मन में इतनी इज्जत है जितनी शायद दूसरों के लिये न हो । उन्होंने ब्रिटिश डेज की याद दिलाई — परम्परा चाहे जो हो—लेकिन इस तरह की बात कहना कि सरकार को खरी-खरी सुनाई,

[श्री नवल किशोर सिंह]

सरकार को रगड़ कर रख दिया, जब हम उधर थे तो हम भी यह काम किया करते थे, लेकिन उस वक्त में और आज के जमाने मे बहुत बड़ा बुनियादी परिवर्तन हो गया है। हम जितने सदस्य यहा पर है, हम को यह नही भूलना चाहिये कि उस वक्त हम कुछ नही कर सकते थे, लेकिन आज कल हम जो चाहे कर सकते है।

मैं एक निवेदन आप से करना चाहता था—हमारे यहा कुछ काम नही हुआ, ऐसी बात नही है। सब से बडा काम तो यह हुआ कि बाबू जगजीवन राम इस देश के खाद्य मत्री बने, मै समझता हू कि यह एक निश्चित बडा काम इस समस्या के निदान का, इस समस्या के समाधान का हुआ। 53 हजार रेड्स इस देश मे हुई, यहा हम लोग डी-होर्डिंग की माग करते थे, 60 हजार टन अनाज बाहर निकाला गया, 5 हजार व्यक्ति गिरफ्तार किये गये। ये सब वही काम है जो साल भर से हमारे माननीय सदस्य—इधर से या उधर से—माग कर रहे थे। आज जब ऐसी बात हुई है तो उधर मे कोई मुबारकबाद सुनने को नही मिला कि तुम ने यह अच्छा काम किया है। मैं कोई बहुत अर्थशास्त्री या विद्वान नही हूं, लेकिन मैंने अखबारों में पढ़ा है कि पिछले साल इसी महीने में सीरल्ज का प्रयास इण्डेक्स 5.3 परसेन्ट बढ़ा था और इस साल यह प्राइज इण्डक्स 5.7 परसेन्ट कम हुआ है। ये सब बातें ऐसी है जिन को स्वीकार किया जाना चाहिये और सरकार की आलोचना करने के साथ साथ जो कुछ काम हुआ है उस के लिये सरकार को दाद भी देनी चाहिये।

दूसरी बात मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं—प्राकृतिक कारणों से जो कुछ होना है, वह तो हो लेकिन सरकार के कामों से मैन-मैड फलड और मैन-मैड डाउट नहीं होना चाहिए। मैं इसके दो-तीन उदाहरण आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूं। पहला उदाहरण तो गण्डक योजना का है। आप चलिये—उत्तर बिहार मे, यह गण्डक योजना जो किसी समय बिहार के लिये वरदान समझी जा रही थी आज अभिशाप बन गई है मैंने खुद उस समय एक कमेटी बनाई थी कि गण्डक योजना के कार्यान्वयन के लिये आन्दोलन किया जाय। उसके बनते बनते-आज क्या हो रहा है—आप देखिये, जितना अनाज उससे ज्यादा पैदा हो रहा है, उतना ही अनाज उसके एस्केप चैनल मे बह रहा है। इसका क्या जवाब है? मैं साल भर से कहता आ रहा हू, दो तीन बार सवाल भी उठाये, गण्डक योजना अनाथ हो गई है-न भारत सरकार ही उसको लेने को तैयार है और न बिहार सरकार कुछ कर रही है। बीसियो बार हमने कहा है कि भारत सरकार उसको अपने हाथ मे लेकर उसको पूरा कर दे और फिर देखे कि वह क्षेत्र कितना चमक उठता है, हमारे खाद्यान्न के उत्पादन मे कितनी वृद्धि होती है। लेकिन इस विषय में अभी तक विचार नही किया गया।

एक दूसरा उदाहरण भी आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूं—कि हमारे यहां उत्तर बिहार में छोटी लाइन को बडी लाइन में कन्वर्ट किया जा रहा है। मधौल और कफेन गाव में जहां छोटी लाइन में पांच पुल थे, वहा बड़ी लाइन में कन्वर्शन करते समय दो पुल ड्राइवरशन के बनाने में दिये गये नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि सारा पानी रुक जाता है और हजारों एकड़ भूमि की

फसल को बहा ले जाता है। यह मैन-मेड फ्लड है, इसका क्या जवाब है—मेरी समझ में नहीं आता है। मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार इस पर विचार करे ताकि इस तरह की घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति न हो।

प्रथमतः बिहार के संबंध में दो चार बातें कहना चाहता हूं। इस साल बिहार में करीब 15 लाख टन यानी 380 करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान हुआ है। बिहार में हर साल 7 लाख टन का डेफिसिट रहता है, इस साल यह डेफिसिट 15 लाख टन का है। मकई और धान दोनों खराब हो गए। मकई तो बिल्कुल हुई ही नहीं, धान में भी काफी कमी आई। वहां रबी उत्पादन के आन्दोलन को बहुत तेजी से चलाना है। सरकार ने बीज दिया, लेकिन इतना लेट दिया कि 2 लाख 15 हजार क्विंटल उसके लिये एलाट हुआ था, अभी 56 हजार क्विंटल ही पहुंच पाया, बाकी कब पहुंचेगा और कब बुआई के काम आयेगा, मेरा अनुरोध है कि वहां बीज जल्दी से जल्दी पहुंचना चाहिये।

रबी के उत्पादन के लिये नाइट्रोजन फर्टिलाइजर का एक खास स्थान है। मेरी सूचना है कि 95 हजार टन का एलाटमेंट बिहार के लिये हुआ था लेकिन हाल ही में उसमें एक तिहाई की कमी होने जा रही है। मेरा अनुरोध है कि यह कमी न की जाय।

तीसरे—वहां किसानों को कर्ज नहीं मिल रहा है। वहां कोआपरेटिव बैंकस सहकारी संस्थाओं की वसूली अच्छी नहीं हुई। बाढ़ और सुखाड़ को कारण बताकर इसलिये उनकी कर्ज बांटने और कर्ज लेने की शक्ति कमजोर गई है। इस मद में 25 करोड़ की आवश्यकता बिहार सरकार को है। मैं भारत सरकार से यह आग्रह करना चाहता हूं कि बिहार सरकार की इस मांग को शार्ट टर्म क्रेडिट के रूप में या दूसरे क्रेडिट के रूप में पूरा करने की कोशिश करें।

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी (शाजापुर): सभापति महोदय, माननीय समर गुहा जी के स्थगन प्रस्ताव पर सदन में चर्चा हो रही है, इसके समर्थन के लिये मैं खड़ा हुआ हूं। आज देश के कई प्रदेश में भुखमरी की विभीषिका बड़ा विकराल रूप धारण लेकर खड़ी है। न केवल आसाम, बंगाल, कूच-बिहार, बल्कि राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश तथा अन्य प्रदेशों में स्थिति मौत की सीमा तक पहुंच गई है। यह सवाल कोई राजनीतिक नहीं है, जो वास्तविकता है उसको स्वीकार करके उसका समाधान पाने का प्रयत्न करें—यही आवश्यक है।

कुछ कांग्रेसी मित्रों ने कहा कि स्थिति इतनी विकट नहीं है-किन्तु मेरे सामने तो ये अखबारों की कटिंग्ज हैं जो देखने लायक हैं। एक मित्र ने कहा कि कोई मृत्यु नहीं हुई—यह हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्ज का अग्रलेख है—आप इस को सुनें।

"Possibly for the first time, the Assam Government has admitted that at least 426 persons have so far died if recent weeks in various parts of Kamrup District."

ये 426 लोग कैसे मरे, मैलन्यूट्रीशन से मरे या कैसे मरे? लेकिन वे मरे यह बात तो

[श्री जगन्नाथराव जोशी]

वास्तविक है। किन्तु जब इस के आधार पर हम यह देखते है कि हमारे माननीय अन्न मंत्री महोदय रोम जाते है और वहा एलान करते है– 'Nobody is starving in India.', says Ram तब दुख होता है। दूसरी तरफ इसी सदन के एक सदस्य श्री चन्दूलाल चन्द्राकर ने कहा है—

"The Chhatisgarh people are eating grass and animal feed.'

ये सदस्य विरोधी सदस्य नही है, ये काग्रेसी सदस्य है, जब ये स्वयं इस बात की दुहाई दे रहे है कि छत्तीसगढ़ के लोग कैसे भुखमरी के कगार पर आकर खड़े हुये है तो मुझे लगता है कि यह भुखमरी की समस्या कोई ऐसी समस्या नही है कि जो आसमान से आ कर टपकी है।

कई लोगो ने कहा है–1943 में बगाल से जो मौते हुई – उस समय की विदेशी सरकार के कहने के मुताबिक उसमें 30 लाख लोगों की मृत्यु हुई। लेकिन वह मानव निर्मित अकाल समझा जाता था, लेकिन अब तो पिछले कई सालों मे भुखमरी की समस्या किसी न किसी रूप में हमारे देश के सामने खड़ी है। हर साल देश के ऊपर अकाल आता है, लाखों लोग उसमें मरते है–इस बात को हम क्यों अस्वीकार करते है।

एक माननीय सदस्य : प्रकृति के कारण।

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : प्रकृति के कारण–ठीक है। जैसे अब ठंड शुरू हो गई है, यह बढ़गी तो कड़ाके की सर्दी आयेगी। इसी राजधानी में खबरें आयेंगी कि आज इतने मरे, कल इतने मरे–उसको यह कहना कि मरे नही, वास्तविकता से क्यों इंकार करते है, उसके मूल में क्यो नही जाते यानी जिनका कोई सहारा नही है, जिनको बाहर सोना पड़ता है, जिनके पास ठंड से बचने के लिये कम्बल नही है, ऐसे लोग मरते है। और जितना आप कहते हैं स्वाभाविक है। मतलब क्या है? हर साल ठंड में राजधानी मे लोग मरते हैं। कम से कम इतना ही आप तय कर लें कि देश की राजधानी में एक भी आदमी बेसहारा हो कर फुट पाथ पर नही सोयेगा और किसी को ठंड से नही मरने दिया जायेगा।

कहते है अकाल आने के बाद लड़कों को बेचने लगे। मतलब यह है कि लड़को को खरीदने वाले भी आदमी इस देश के है। भूखा आदमी अपने बच्चों को कुएं मे फेंक दें, जंगल में छोड़ दें वह तो बात समझ में आती है, किन्तु कोई अपने बच्चों को बेचे इसका मतलब यह है कि खरीदने वाले भी यहां है समाज के अन्दर। यह स्थिति है। इसके लिये कौन जिम्मेदार है। यह कहना कि कोई होर्ड करता है हमारे हाथ में नहीं आया, सरकार लिये रोना बिल्कुल ठीक है। यानी जब सरकार रोने लगे तो सरकार को समझना चाहिए कि उसकी शासन करने की क्षमता समाप्त हो गई और ऐसी सरकार को एक दिन भी शासन की गद्दी पर नहीं बैठना चाहिए। देश के अन्दर एक दम जो अकाल की विभीषिका खड़ी होती है, बड़े पैमाने पर देश की जनता खेती पर निर्भर करती है और एक बार जब वर्षा नहीं होती है, तो ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की जनता उदास हो कर घूमने लगती है। मेरी समझ में नहीं

आया, खाद्य राज्य मंत्री से मैं पूछता हू कि उनके ऊपर के मंत्री बार बार बदलते रहते हैं, लेकिन अन्ना साहब तो लगातार इसी मन्त्रालय में हैं, पिछले सितम्बर से लगातार भुखमरी की खबरें अखबारों में आ रही हैं, और वह जानते थे कि नवम्बर में सदन की बैठक होने वाली है यह बात जरूर सामने आयेगी। तो इस के पहले जहां जहा ऐसी स्थिति है वहा वहां वह वस्तु स्थिति का पता लगाने के लिये क्यों नही स्वयं गये ? क्यों नही देखा पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम क्या है, सरकार की तरफ से क्या हो रहा है, समाज सेवी सस्थायें क्या कर रही है ? वास्तविकता क्या है और उसको हल करने के लिये कौन से प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं। क्या वह बता सकते है वह हर जगह गये ? गुजरात, मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ इलाके, कूच बिहार, असम में वह गये ? अगर ऐसा होता तो फिर अन्न मंत्री का स्टेटमेंट यह नही आता कि यह दुनिया की शार्टेज का यह एक पार्ट है। मैं मानता हू कि दुनिया के देशो के सामने अपनी गरीबी और दरिद्रता सामने नही रखनी चाहिए क्योंकि उससे बदनामी होती है। लेकिन साथ ही मैं ये भी चाहता हूं कि अपनी समस्या को वर्ल्ड कंटेकस्ट में देखने की दृष्टि से भारत में जो शौर्टेज है उसको वर्ल्ड शोर्टेज के साथ जोड़ा जाय, यह उचित नही है। फूड शार्टेज है तो वर्ल्ड फूड बैंक, पेपर की शौर्टेज है तो वर्ल्ड पेपर बैंक, और उसमें हम भी शामिल हों यह उचित नहीं है। वास्तविकता जो है आपके सामने उसको छोड़ कर कही और जाना ठीक नही है। इसलिये भुखमरी की समस्या का एक हल तात्कालिक है और दूसरा स्थाई है। फैमीन कोड अंग्रेजों के जमाने से बना हुआ है। मतलब यह है कि ड्राउट प्रोन एरियाज देश में हैं। पाचवी योजना में कुछ जिक्र भी किया है जैसे आन्ध्र में रायल सीमा क्षेत्र है जो ड्राउट प्रोन है, हर दो, तीन साल के अन्दर वहां अकाल आ जाता है, करोड़ों रुपया खर्च होता है। किन्तु स्थाई रूप से उसका हल कैसे करें इस बारे में कभी सोचा नही जाता है। मेरे ख्याल से 200, 300 करोड़ ० रायलसीमा को राहत देने के लिये खर्च हुआ होगा। लेकिन स्थायी रूप से अकाल नही आयगा इस दृष्टि से कुछ किया है, तो ऐसा लगता है कि कुछ नही किया है। जैसे अभी एक मित्र ने कहा माननीय डी० एन० तिवारी चम्पारन की बात 1952 से लगातार करते हैं, आज भी करते है। तो कई ऐसे क्षेत्र हैं जो आज भी अकाल से ग्रस्त हैं। ऐसी स्थिति आज नही होनी चाहिए क्योंकि यातायात के तीव्र साधन होने की वजह से जहा मुसीबत है वहा की समस्या को हल किया जा सकता है। समग्र देश के अन्दर भुखमरी नही होती। जहा पैदा होता है वहा से अनाज ऐसी जगह पहुचाना चाहिए और लोगों को जीवित रखने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए। तात्कालिक रूप से यह हमें करना ही होगा।

राहत कार्यों में जो बच्चे नही लग सकते कम अवस्था के कारण, या जो बूढ़े और अपग हैं उनको तो जीवित रखना ही पड़ेगा। ऐसे लोगों को सरकार की तरफ से कुछ मिलना चाहिए। माननीय नवल किशोर जी ने सारी बात कह कर कहा क्या करें। महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने एक समिति नियुक्त की थी उसने अपनी जांच में कहा है कि एक क्षेत्र में लोग कबरें खोद कर हड्डियां निकाल कर बेच कर

[श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी]

अपने जीवन का गजारा कर रहे हैं। शिंदे साहब को पता ही नहीं इस बात का। जनता परेशान हो कर ऐसा करती है, कबरें खोदती है। 27 साल के बाद, चार योजनाओं के बाद जनता की हालत यहां तक पहुंचे यह शर्म की बात है। यह सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त समिति ने कहा है, मैं नहीं कह रहा हूं। माननीय हीरेन मुखर्जी ने कहा वेश्या व्यवसाय के लिये प्रवृत्त होना पड़ता है। लोगों को अपना जिस्म बेचना पड़ता है। यानी यह मजबूरियां हैं, उनकी तरफ ध्यान क्यों नहीं देते हैं। जब देश में लैंड लैस लेबर्स हैं, भूमि पर अधिकतर जनसंख्या निर्भर है थोड़ा सा भी अकाल आ गया तो लोग कदम उससे पीड़ित होते हैं और सारा गांव परेशान हो जाता है तब लोग अपने घरों को छोड कर दूसरी जगहों पर जाने लगते हैं। और सब से बड़ी मुसीबत पशुओं पर आती है, उनको चारा नहीं मिलता और पशुओं को एक प्रान्त से दूसरे प्रांत में चारे की तलाश में लोगों को ले जाना पड़ता है तो आखिर मवेशियों को चारा, पानी कैसे मिले यह सारी व्यवस्था करने का काम आप का है। किन्तु दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि सरकार की मशीनरी

In normal circumstances it does not function and in emergency it collapees.

आपने पिछली बार जब होल सेल ट्रेड अपने हाथ में लिया यह कह कर कि हम परचेज, स्टोर और वितरित करेंगे स्थाई सरकारी मशीनरी के जरिये। लेकिन एक साल के अन्दर ही उसको छोड़ दिया इसलिये कि हम नहीं कर सकते।

Now you will have to decide whether you must continue in power.

मैं देख रहा हूं आपने बड़े उत्साह से महंगे निषेध शुरू किया। लेकिन अन्त में पहुंचे कहां? लोग चाहे जैसे पीते हैं इसलिये उनको अच्छी पिलाओ ताकि लोग पीते ही समाप्त हो जायें। मतलब यह कि आप फेल हो गये। वहां मटका चलता था जो जुआ था, किन्तु उसको बन्द करने के बदले में आपने लाटरी निकाली एक पये में लाख कमाओ। यह कौन सा समाजवाद है? यह मैं इसलिये बता रहा हूं कि आगे चल कर भुखमरी के साथ यही कहेंगे कि मरने वाले मरेंगे इसलिए हम आपके लिये अच्छी श्मशान भूमि तैयार करेंगे। मरने वाले मरा करो, गाढने वाले गाढा करें। उसको आप बचायेंगे ऐसा मुझको नहीं लगता।

माननीय हीरेन मुखर्जी जो ने कहा :

Government by the people, for the people and of the people. But I will say this Government is not with the people. This Government is with power and without the support of the people.

क्योंकि जब आप निर्णय करते हैं वह पूरा नहीं करते, फिर कैसे आप किसी समस्या का समाधान कर पायेंगे, मेरी तो समझ में नहीं आता। आप लोग जो तय करते हैं, तात्कालिक रूप से जो भी करना है, वह भी नहीं कर सकते। ठीक ढंग से बांट भी नहीं सकते हैं। आप रोते हैं। आपको रोना नहीं चाहिए। कुछ करके दिखाना चाहिये।

स्थायी रूप से आप क्या उपाय करना चाहते है यह भी पता चलना चाहिये ? ड्राउट प्रोन एरियाज का हमें पता है । अकाल आता है यह भी हमें पता है । देश में सब जगह एक जैसी वर्षा नहीं होती है इसका भी हमें पता है । जहां चाहिये वहां वर्षा नहीं होती हैं यह भी हमे पता है । यह भी हमें पता है कि नदियों में बाढ आती है । नदियों का पानी बाढों को कंट्रोल करने की दृष्टि से क्यों नहीं किया जाता है, उसका उपयोग भूमि की सिंचाई करने की दृष्टि से कौन करेगा ? 1951 से लगातार हम देखते आ रहें है कि कृष्णा गोदारी का झगड़ा चल रहा है कावेरी का झगडा चल रहा है, नर्मदा का झगडा चल रहा है । पानी के बटवारे के जो विवाद है उनको हल करके पानी को प्रयोग मे क्या आप नही ला सकते हैं ? इसके लिए भी किसी दूसरी एजेंसी की जरूरत है ? पंजाब मे पानी का उपयोग करके राजस्थान को पानी पहुचाने का काम आप क्यो नही कर सकते है ? नए मंत्री के आने के बाद क्या हुआ है । यह हुआ है कि थीन डैम को ही शैल्व कर दिया गया है । थीन डैम को बनाने की बात तो दूर रही यह कहने लग गए हैं कि इसको शैल्व कर दिया जाए । इसका क्या मतलब हैं ? स्थायी हल की दृष्टि से आप कौन से कदम उठाएगे यह भी तो हमें पता चलना चाहिये । क्या आपको लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जी की याद दिलानी पड़गी ? उस समय जबकि इतनी स्कारसिटी नही थी, आठ परसेंट ही अनाज की कमी थी, उन्होंने कहा था कि हम भीख नही मागेंगे खुद ही अपना गुजारा करेंगे और इसलिए सोमवार शाम का भोजन छोड़ने का वचन सारा देश करे । इस निणय पर आप क्यों नहीं टिके रहे । उन्होंने जय किसान का नारा दिया था । किसान की जय हो, यह देखा क्यों नही आप ने । फिर रूस के पांव क्यों पकडते है । अमेरिका के पाव क्यों पकड़ते है ? रूस सब से बडा बिचौलिया है । अमरीका से ले कर देता है । खुद का देता तो समझ में आता । आप कहते है कि मिडलमैन को रिमूव किया जाए । लेकिन आप इटरनैशनल मिडलमैन स्टेबलिश कर रहे है । भगवान ने हमे इतनी उपजाऊ भूमि दी है और इतनी अधिक दी है, पानी भी भरपूर दिया है लेकिन आप उसका पूरा उपयोग नही करते है । 38 परसेंट पानी का भी प्रयोग आप नही कर रहे है । इसका प्रयोग क्यों नही हो रहा है, इस मे किस ने आपका विरोध किया है । छोटी सिंचाई योजनाए देश को समृद्ध बना सकती है । इनको आप हाथ में लेकर इनको पूरा क्यो नही करते है । एक भी आदमी भूख से नही मरेगा, इसकी प्रतिज्ञा आप क्यों नही करते है इन सब कामों में कौन आप का विरोध करेगा लेकिन कठिनाई यह है कि आप अपने निर्णय पर अडिग नही रहते है । उससे भटक जाते है । पांव पकडने शुरू कर देते हैं, भीख मांगना शुरू कर देते हैं दुनिया मे जाकर । देश को आप बदनाम करते हैं और दोष विरोधियो को देते है । लोग भूख से मर रहे है यह साफ बात है, प्रत्यक्ष चीज हैं । लेकिन आप कहते है कि यह सब झूठ है, यह कैसे हो सकता है । सारी फाइले भरी हुई है, चित्र पडे हुए हैं लेकिन आप कह देते है कि झूठ है । मैं असम गया हू, बंगाल गया हू, बसु जी मेरे साथ थे । कलकत्ता में मैंने देखा है गली-गली से, किसी की जबरदस्त स्टेशन पर फेंके हुए जूठे पत्तल इसके पहले

[श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी]

कि कोई कुत्ता उठा ले जाए लड्डू ले, डकिया उसकी ओर लपकते है और उठा लेते है। अगर उनको घर मे बढिया खाने को मिलता होता तो क्या वे जूठे पत्तल उठाएगे कुत्ते से पहले ? क्या इस तरह की बाते कहना आपको शोभा देता है ? (इन्टरप्शन्स) चंदरावकर जी ने जो कुछ कहा है वह आपका मालूम ही है। उन्होंने ही कहा है कि मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार जो माग रही है वह केन्द्र नही दे रहा है राहत के रूप मे नही दे रहा है, जितना अनाज माग रही है, नही दे रहा है। फाइनेंस कमिशन ने यह कह दिया कि स्थाई रूप से कुछ न कुछ हर प्रदेश अपने पास रखे उस पर आप चिपके हुए है। जिस विकट रूप मे यह समस्या मुह बाए खडी है उसका क्या इस तरह से सामना किया जा सकता है। क्या उस मे केन्द्र की कोई जिम्मेदारी नही है ? राज्यो की तात्कालिक आवश्यकताओ की पूर्ति करने मे केन्द्रीय सरकार असफल रही है, स्थायी उपाय करने मे असफल रही है, राहत पहुचाने के काम मे यह सरकार असफल रही है, भुखमरी रोकने मे असफल रही है, कई प्रदेशो मे इस समस्या ने विकराल रूप धारण कर लिया है और उससे निपटने मे यह सरकार नितान्त असफल रही है, इस वास्ते स्थगन प्रस्ताव ला कर जो उसकी निन्दा की गई है, उसका मै पूरी तरह से समर्थन करता हू।

श्री एम० राम गोपाल रेड्डी (निजामाबाद) मुझे जगन्नाथ राव जी जोशी की एक बात अच्छी लगी है और वह यह है कि देश की बदनामी विदेशो मे नही होनी चाहिये। लेकिन इस बात को समझ कर भी वह नासमझी का परिचय दे रहे है। उनको शायद मालूम नही है कि उन्होने जितनी देश को बदनामी विदेशो मे की है अपोजीशन के किसी दूसरे लीडर ने नही की होगी। देश मे थोडी बहुत कठिनाई जरूर है। लेकिन बात का बतगड बनाना, राई का पहाड बनाना, चीटी का हाथी बनाना इनका ही काम है। इसी मे ये मजा ले रहे है। अगर कांग्रेस पार्टी को या कांग्रेस गवर्नमेंट को बदनाम ये करते तो इसकी इनको पूरी आजादी थी लेकिन उसके साथ ये देश को भी बदनाम कर रहे है। इसकी पूरी जिम्मेदारी इनको लेनी चाहिये (व्यवधान) ये टोक रहे है लेकिन आप देखें कि इनके दम आदमी ही चुन कर आये है।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय लोग भूख से मर रहे है और आप केवल मजा करने वाले है।

श्री एम० राम गोपाल रेड्डी अगर सच बात कही जाती है तो इनका जोश आ जाता है और उसका सबूत ये इस तरह से दे रहे है।

जन सघ की ही बात को आप ले। एक तरफ तो ये किसान के पास जा कर कहते है कि आप लेवी का गल्ला मत दो और दूसरी तरफ सरकार से कहते है कि गल्ला मगाई करो, एक तरफ कहते है लोगो को कि टैक्स न दो और दूसरी तरफ सरकार को कहते हैं कि आप खर्च ज्यादा करो, सबसिडी दो। जितना पार्लिमेंट मजूर करती है उस मे ही तो काम करना होता है। अगर टैक्स बढाए जाते हैं तो उसका भी ये विरोध करते है। यह सब कहा का लाजिक है। अनाज की इस साल और

पिछले साल भी कुछ कमी हुई है। उसके भी कुछ कारण हैं। ये लोग इलैक्ट्रिसिटी वालों से जा कर स्ट्राइक करवाते हैं और उस वक्त करवाई थी जबकि खेतों में फसल खड़ी थी और बिजली की किसानों को सब से ज्यादा जरूरत थी। उस वक्त किसानों की हालत पर इनको तरस नहीं आया। उस वक्त रेलों की हड़ताल इन्होंने करवाई थी जबकि खाद और गल्ला लाने ले जाने की सख्त जरूरत थी। विरोधी दल वाले गवर्नमेंट के काम में अड़ंगा लगाने का ही काम कर रहे हैं। चलते आदमी के पांव में लकड़ी लगा कर उसको गिराने की कोशिश करने के सिवा अपोजीशन वालों ने आज तक कुछ किया है क्या? (व्यवधान) कांग्रेस के 160 मैम्बर उधर गए थे लेकिन जीत कर कितने वापिस आए? सोलह ही। आगे कितने आएंगे इसका भी पता चल जाएगा।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: The Congress has become a dustbin. All the dust from different political parties, those who have been expelled, all that wastes are being taken by the Congress in this dustbin.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a senior Member. You cannot do that.

श्री एम० राम गोपाल रेड्डी : समर गुहा जी अच्छे आदमी हैं। बहुत इमोशनल भी हैं। लेकिन पीछे से उनको जो कुछ बता दिया जाता है वही वह कह देते हैं। उनकी नेकनीयती और पैट्रियोटिज्म पर किसी को सन्देह नहीं हो सकता हैं। लेकिन शमीम जी जो उनके पीछे बैठे हुए हैं उन्होंने तथा दूसरों ने उनको बता नहीं दिया होता तो शायद वह इस किस्म का भाषण नहीं करते।

समस्या जरूर कुछ कठिन है लेकिन समस्याओं का मुकाबला करने की आदत हमको हो गई है। बंगला देश जब आजाद हुआ तो उस में आप सब ने मदद दी थी। उस वक्त आप मदद कर सकते थे तो अब क्यों नहीं कर सकते हैं? इस वास्ते इस तरह की बातें आपको नहीं करनी चाहिये।

इनके भाषणों से ऐसा लगा जैसे गरीबों के साथ इन्ही को हमदर्दी है। मुझे एक शेयर याद आता है। सारे जहां का दर्द हमारे जिगर में ह। हम से ज्यादा हमदर्दी इनके दिल में नहीं है।

देश की आमदनी हम बढ़ा सकते हैं। इन्होने शक्कर की बात की है। उस के सम्बन्ध मे मैं भी एक निवेदन करना चाहता हूं। कोई भी दुनिया का देश ऐसा नहीं है जो अपनी जरूरत की सभी चीजें पैदा करता हो। तेल की कीमत चार गुना बढ़ी है। इससे अरब कंट्रीज मालामाल हो गए हैं। इसी तरीके से हमारे पास शक्कर है। इसकी बाहर बहुत मांग है। शक्कर में अगर यहां एक तोला भी कम किया जाता है तो ये एडजर्नमेंट मोशन और कालिंग एटेंशन मोशन ले आते हैं। एक थैले का भाव अन्तरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में आठ सौ रुपया है। हमारे पास चालीस लाख टन शक्कर है। अगर हम एक रेजोल्यूशन पास करें कि एक साल के लिए हम लोग कोई शक्कर की डिमांड नहीं करेंगे और 75 परसेंट शक्कर का एक्सपोर्ट हम कर दें तो हमें चार पांच हजार करोड़ रुपया मिल जाएगा। क्या आप यह करने के लिए तैयार हैं? जब कुछ करने के लिए आप तैयार नहीं हैं तो गरीबों के लिए इस तरह से आंसू बहाने से क्या फायदा?

श्री एस० ए० शमीम (श्रीनगर) : रेजोल्यूशन की क्या जरूरत है । आप करते क्यो नही है ?

श्री एम० राम गोपाल रेड्डी । जरा सा स्मगलर्ज को जेल भेजने का इतजाम हमने किया तो इतना हगामा आप लोगो ने मचा दिया । कौन सी चीज है जो आप हमे करने देते है ? शक्कर की प्रोडकशन का अगर हम 75 परसेट भी एक्स्पोर्ट कर दें तो हमे चार पाच हजार करोड फोरन एक्चेंज का मिल जाएगा और उससे हम चाहे जितना अनाज पैदा कर सकते है । लेकिन उसके लिए आप तैयार नही है । देश मे जितने बड बडे प्रोजैक्ट्स बने हैं वे अच्छा खासा लाभ दे रहे हैं ।

आध्र प्रदेश मे दो साल से कटिनुअसली ड्राउट है । एक आदमी को वहा एक किलो अनाज दिया जाता है । मैं देहातो मे गया हू और लोगो से मैंने उनकी हालत के बारे मे पूछा है । उन्होने मुझे बताया है कि सब चल जाएगा ।

काई मकई उगाता है, कोई और चीज उगाता है, कुछ न कुछ इतजाम करता है । तो यह कहना कि पूरे देश के हर आदमी को गवर्नमेंट खिलाए यह गलत है । क्यो कि हर आदमी अपना कुछ न कुछ पैदा कर लेता है और गवर्नमेंट थोडा बहुत सबसिडी के तौर पर अनाज या पैसा या और किसी तरह की सहायता देती है । यह कहा लिखा हुआ है कि पूरे देश के हर आदमी को दिल्ली से अनाज रवाना किया जाये ? आप लोगों ने कितना प्रोक्योरमेंट किया है ? आध्र प्रदेश में हमारे सब लोगों ने मिल कर और अपोजीशन ने मिल कर 8 लाख टन प्रोक्योर किया उस में से 4 लाख टन सेंट्रल पूल में दिया । इस साल हम दस लाख टन राइस प्रोक्योर कर के देने वाले हैं । तो यह स्पिरिट होनी चाहिए । अपने देश का नाम ऊंचा रखने के लिए हर आदमी को कुछ न कुछ मेहनत करनी पडती है और मुझे ताज्जुब यह होता है कि जनसघ वाले हमेशा जब बोलते हैं तो कहते हैं कि जनसघ का मतलब है देशभक्त, देश भक्ति का मतलब यही है कि बगला देश में जब याह्या खां के अत्याचार चल रहे थे उस जमाने के फोटो यहा दिखाए (व्यवधान)

SHRI S A SHAMIM. On a point order How can he describe starving Indians, dying Indians as Bangladesh is?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil) This is very unfair In this House we should not make such references to friendly, neighbouring countries It should not go on record.

SHRI M RAM GOPAL REDDY I am not saying so During Yahya Khan days those photographs were taken in Bangla Desh, our people also have taken those photographs Those photos are now being produced in this House, that is my contention I am not saying anything about Bangla Desh Bangla Desh is as prosperous as we are now and there is no doubt about it

तो कहने का मतलब यही है कि देश को बदनाम करने का काम न करें । बाबू जगजीवन राम के निजाम में आप लोगों ने देखा है कि 1966-67 में अपने देश में 22 लाख टन शक्कर पैदा होती थी और एक ही साल में

उस पैदावार को 100 परसेंट बढ़ा कर 44 लाख टन आप ने कर दिया । उस के बाद कंट्रोल शुगर से खुली शुगर कम दाम में बिकने लगी । तो उन के मुबारक कदम हैं । उन के आते ही अच्छी खासी बारिश सब जगह हुई है । मुझे यह नहीं मालूम कि बारिश को वह साथ लाए है या उन के पीछे बारिश आई है लेकिन उस से रबी की फसल अच्छी होने वाली है तो । हम लोगों को कोई चिन्ता नहीं करनी चाहिए और देश को बदनाम करने वाले भाषण नहीं किए जाने चाहिए । ऐसे भाषण देना वह बन्द कर दे तो यह उन के लिए और देश के लिए दोनों के लिए अच्छा है। यह कहते हुए मैं ऐडजर्नमेंट मोशन की मुखालिफत करता हूं ।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA I have to go to the Business Advisory Committee I want to know when Babuji will speak

MR CHAIRMAN Opposition Members have been allotted some time But I am giving them double their time So, I think it will be about 6 30 p m

SHRI SAMAR GUHA None of the West Bengal, M Ps. from the Congress side have spoken Why?

MR CHAIRMAN: You are not supposed to raise fresh points now.

*SHRI M. S. SIVASWAMY (Tiruchendur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I rise to say a few words on the Adjournment Motion of my hon. friend, Shri Samar Guha, which he has moved to focus the attention of this House on the spectre of famine and starvation threatening the country. If the Members of Opposition Parties alone had stated that famine conditions and starvation deaths were widely prevalent throughout the country, the D M K. would have hesitated to extend its support to this Adjournment Motion Since the ruling party Members as also the Congress Chief Ministers of the States like Rajasthan, Orissa, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh have been so vociferous about famine conditions in their respective States, on behalf of my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I extend my full support to this Adjournment Motion on Famine and Starvation Deaths

Shri P. C Sethi, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, on 11th October 1974 issued a statement that, in his State, 50,000 villages in 25 districts covering 1 62 crores of people are afflicted by famine conditions and imminent starvation deaths I would also like to recall to the House the statement issued by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Hari Deo Joshi, on 3rd November, 1974 that 90 lakhs of people in 10,000 villages of 10 districts in his State are living in famine conditions and starvation deaths cannot be a distant possibility Similarly, Shri Siddartha Shankar Ray, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, has stated that 30 per cent of the total population of his State is facing acute famine conditions The Orissa Chief Minister, Shrimati Nandini Satpathi has called for immediate assistance from the Centre to help 60 per cent of the people in 13 districts of the State of Orissa who are undergoing the traumatic experience of drought Even in the southern State of Kerala, where there is the coalition Government of Congress Party and the Communist Party of India 40,000 tonnes of paddy have been destroyed by drought and pests—this is the statement of the Chief Minister, Shri Achutha Menon. I have come across news reports in the daily papers that the people of Himachal Pradesh

*The Original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri M. S. Sivaswamy]

are eating grass for their very survival. I thought it was only Louis, the King of France who once said that the common people could as well live on grass. But, in this era of scientific achievements and technological developments, it is regrettable that the people of Himachal Pradesh should take to grass for their living. It is time that the Government of India take serious note of this situation and ameliorate the living conditions of the people of our country.

I would like to refer here to the appalling conditions in which the people of Gujarat are living. I happened to attend the meeting of Gujarat State Consultative Committee held in Ahmedabad on 19th October, 1974. In that meeting, many Members belonging to Gujarat narrated harrowing tales of sufferings of the people of Gujarat on account of famine conditions. I toured for 4, 5 days the northern parts of Gujarat—Jamnagar Gandhidam, Verawal, etc. The hon. Members may not believe statements from one who has no personal knowledge and experience. I have toured this area. If a Member travelling by train from Ahmedabad to Verawal, from Verawal to Dwarka *via* Rajkot, from Dwarka to Bhavnagar, feels thirsty and wants to quench his thirst, he has to pay 5 paise or 10 paise for a glass of water, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Agriculture Minister to the fact that lakhs of cattle do not have feed; either they are being shifted to the neighbouring States or the cattle-feed in truckloads is being brought from neighbouring States. There was a report in the Press yesterday that one lakh of children in Gujarat have lost their eye-sight on account of malnutrition. It was also demanded in the meeting of the Gujarat State Consultative Committee that several lakhs of Vitamin tablets should be rushed to Gujarat because lakhs and lakhs of people on account of malnutrition are on the portals of death and their legs and hands have got swollen beyond recognition.

Why should there be such a horrible situation in Gujarat 27 years after our independence? If you go by train from Ahmedabad for 500 miles, you will not come across even a stray pumpset or tubewell. This assumes grave significance when there is no rain during the past three years. You compare Tamil Nadu with Gujarat In Tamil Nadu, within a distance of 10 miles of train journey, you will see 1,000 pumpsets. But in Gujarat, if you travel by train for 1,000 miles, you will not come across even 10 tubewells or pumsets. Naturally this will end only in famine. I will humbly request the hon. Minister of Agriculture that, if his Government want to avert thousands of starvation deaths in the country, he should ensure the supply of electric power to all the villages in our country, as it obtains now in Tamil Nadu, so that tubewells in lakhs can spring up everywhere.

Sir, Tamil Nadu has, fortunately not so far undergone the vicissitude of famine. But, during October-November this year the South-east monsoon has failed us. If within the next fortnight the South-east monsoon rain does not come, then it is certain that 8, 9 districts of Tamil Nadu will be afflicted by famine. In these circumstances, it is highly regrettable that the Karnataka Government has stored more water in the Kabini reservoir than not only to meet the immediate requirement but also that of the next year. This is besides the Krishnarajasagar Dam reservoir. Tanjavur District in Tamil Nadu is known as the granary of South. If there is no rain for the next fortnight and if the water in

the Mettur Reservoir is also exhausted— this will last only for 10 days or so—the hopes of harvesting bumper Chamba crop within the next three months will be completely belied. On the one side, as I stated just now there is no monsoon and on the other side, the Karnataka Government is in fact hoarding water, depriving Tamil Nadu of water urgently needed. Our Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, has also sent a telegram to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation here. If the famine conditions that obtain in Rajasthan, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh are to be averted in Tamil Nadu, assured water supply is to be ensured immediately. When all of us are talking about national integration, one united nation, etc.. it is unfortunate that in the southern part of our counry, there is this kind of unwarranted discrimination being practised. The Karnataka Government has stored more water than the actual requirement. If water is not supplied within 15 ways, 7 lakh acres of wet land with the capability of producing 15 lakh tonnes of rice will become an arid zone. As the great national poet of Tamil Nadu, Shri Subramania Bharati, used to recite, if one individual is deprived of his food, the entire world faces the threat of annihilation. If Tanjavur and Tiruchirappalli districts are denied water within the next fortnight, it is not only that the 4 crores of Tamil people will face the danger of extinction but in fact the entire country.

I wonder why Narmade water dispute between Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, the Godavari dispute between Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, the Cauvery water dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu could not be settled amicably in the interest of entire nation especially when famine stalks the country.

The Government of India, unfortunately, were keeping Irrigation for so many years under the charge of junior Ministers. At last, they have shown signs of wisdom in bringing together Agriculture and Irrigation under the charge of a competent and capable senior Minister like Shri Jagjiwan Babu. We are all happy that this very important portions has been assigned to him. I have got great faith in his capacity to solve knotty problems facing the country. Similarly, our D.M.K. Government in Tamil Nadu has unwavering and abiding confidence in his competence. I would even go to the extent of saying that perhaps he tops the list of those having administrative and public experience. I appeal to him that during his tenure as the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation all the unseemly river water disputes should be resolved as early as possible. I would also request him to take immediate steps for persuading the Karnataka Government to supply water to Tamil Nadu, which it has stored more than its actual requirement. If this is not done immediately. I am afraid that 7 lakh acres of wet land in Tanjavur district which would yield 15 lakh tonnes of rice would become barren and consequently a bloody revolution will become inevitable because a hungry stomach is more violent than a volcano.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA (Balasore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are no two opinions on this subject that our country is passing through one of the gravest economic crisis. There should not be any two opinions on this subject that all of us together, whether we are on this side or on the other, not only put our heads together but also we should put hand in hand to solve this economic crisis rather to make a capital out of it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Mukherjee was saying that energy of the youth should be utilised for de-hoarding and solving many such vital problems. I think, he is certainly aware of the fact that in his home State West Bengal the Ministers are also today on the streets for de-hoarding purposes. I know one young Minister Mr. Subroto

(Shri Shyam Sunder Mohapatra)

Mukherjee was himself taking the lead on the open streets for de-hoarding purposes. This is one single instance to show that the Congress is alive to the fact and the ruling party Ministers are nowhere superior in their minds than the ordinary workers that they can go whole hog with the public interest in the drive for de-hoarding. Mr. Mukherjee must bear in mind that Kremlin was not built in a day as Rome was not built in a day. Russia had to sacrifice tremendously—thousands of souls—to establish socialism. But only a few years ago there was wheat scarcity and Kremlin had to stretch their hands to Washington. So, crisis does not come to one country alone. Crisis in economic process comes to many countries wherever such exigencies are there. It is a global crisis because only a few months back 2,500 distinguished scholars from over 200 countries appealed to the United Nations Secretary General as below:

> "Food shortages has created serious social unrest in many parts of the world."

I further quote:

> "In the name of humanity we call upon all governments and people everywhere—rich and poor—to act together."

It is a global crisis. Our Agriculture Minister—I must say hon. Agriculture Minister—is a political Midas. Whatever he touches, it turns into gold. I personally feel that under his regime, stewardship and presidentship the Agriculture Ministry will be able to solve many problems unsolved till today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Prime Minister giving an interview to an American journalist only the other day said: This is a population much larger than most countries in the world. We should not lose sight of the fact that India has a population of 55 crores and such natural calamities, whether flood or drought, have been ravaging the soil of India almost every year since 1967. I have been working in the flood and drought affected areas since 1967. If the nature becomes erratic and betrays and goes out of the way, can scientists solve it? There are many things unsolved till today which the scientists have not been able to solve. Are we alive to the fact and are we trying to solve it in right earnest or not? This is the question. Every Chief Minister of India whether it be from Orissa or West Bengal or Madhya Pradesh or Kerala are trying their level best to see that no starvation death takes place.

I have already said about this and now again I appeal to the hon. Minister that the Famine Code should be changed. Two years ago, I think, I made an appeal to Mr. Shinde that this Famine Code should be changed, so that we may know who dies of starvation. If a person eats grass seeds he suffers from gastroentritis people naturally suffer from malnutrition because there is no food. But let us change the Famine Code We should know who are the persons who suffer from starvation and subsequently die.

In this connection I would like to refer to a unique statement made by a French Journalist only a few days ago. The correspondent Mario Bianchi said:

> 'Ex-President Richard Nixon is reported to have told his collaborators last year—when I hear ... The word India I think of Famine. It is the well-worn cliche of the wealthy countries. But today it is untrue.'

There is no famine in India. This is what the French Correspondent says. He gave two examples. One example was this. He said:

> 'During the last 15 years agricultural produce has doubled. Over

the same period population increased by 60 per cent.'

This is what this French Journalist has said about the situation in India. So, I appeal to the opposition to appreciate the situation which is prevailing in India today. I could agree that we are passing through a crisis. Merely condemning the Government, criticising the Government, hurling invectives at each other is not going to solve the problem.

As far as relief is concerned the Government of India under the able leadership of Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, has done a commendable job. We have rushed relief to every nook and corner of the country wherever there were demands raised by the Chief Ministers and the Government has given all aid possible, *ad hoc* sanctions etc. immediately to those concerned States. But let us not also forget the fact that we have got to work under certain limitations. There are limitations of economic resources and we cannot create our resources out of nothing. In my early days I remember what I have studied that money is what money does Only if we can produce more and more in terms of wealth can we improve and for that we have to put our shoulders together and we must work together to see that production becomes more and more

I want to say a few words about Orissa Orissa has passed through one of the most serious economic situation in the country since 1952. I must appreciate that the Government of India helped Orissa Government to the maximum extent. Today the position is this that the price of rice has come down to one rupee fifty paise a kilo. Previously it was Rs. 4 and Rs. 5 and now the prices have come down. This is due to two reasons, namely, one, because of the early crop and two, because of the dehoarding drive by the youth, by the Government, by other social agencies etc.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, Orissa Government has provided Rs 9 crores as loans to the agriculturists and 2,500 quintals of seeds have been disributed among the agriculturists Rs. 47 lakhs have been released for the test relief work.

The cardinal point is to give employment to the rural people. Only the other day I had submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister saying that we have to provide jobs to the rural unemployed people. The crux of the problem in the present situation is this. No Government would have been able to show better results. I have seen the performance of the Opposition Government in 1967. There was a flood in Bengal in 1967, there was a flood in Orissa in 1967 and there was also a flood in Madhya Pradesh. Was here no similar type of lethargy on the part of bureaucracy? Similar conditions of starvation existed There was a similar kind of allegation that the Government had not come up to the task. Similar situation existed. So, we have to fight with the nature and we have to fight with all the might that we have at our command to save the people from starvation; we have to channelise the relief available to us from the international agencies and they have to see that the same reaches the people in time. We have to see that there is best selection of people in the government machinery to see that the people get the relief in time.

In this context I must say that the Agriculture Ministry has done a commendable job; the Government has a commendable job. What is lacking here is appreciation on the part of the Opposition that the Government has not done anything at all.

SHRI BHALJIBHAI PARMAR (Dohad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion moved by Shri Samar Guha in connection with starvation deaths which are occurring in our country.

[Shri Bhaljibhai Parmar]

I come from the State which is most affected due to famine and drought conditions this year. I have brought this fact to your notice also. Out of 19 districts in Gujarat, 17 districts are very much affected. No adequate relief or earth work is started in the State. The District Officer in my district are doing something but with no results till now because they are waiting for money which is not available for our State. They are not getting the money at all. I do not know when they are going to take up the work. This year due to no rain or insufficient rain the State is very much affeced. You know that in this year the foodgrains quota that is given to the State is only to the extent of 77 thousand tonnes monthly recently which is no sufficient at all. Double the quota is required monthly here. As you know, the population of this State is about 2.75 crores. Out of this, at least 1.75 crores of people are affected. They do not get the grains regularly from the fair price shops. The grain that is given is 1 or 2 kg. monthly to each individual which is not sufficient. You may say that they are not very much affected.

Relief works must be stated immediately and they must be prolonged upto twelve months, may be upto the end of October 1975. Today the question of giving bread and butter to the people hard-hit in the drought-affected areas has arisen and for this relief works are necessary. These may cost more than Rs. 100 crores. I think schemes have been submitted in regard to this, but no heed has been paid to them. The famine or scarcity conditions prevailing in the State are unique as this type of famine has not occurred within the last 100 years. Poor people have sold their household utensils, agricultural implements, bullocks, cows and buffaloes for nominal amount of Rs. 40 and Rs. 50. Now they have no money to purchase their daily requirements. If relief works are not started, they will be between the devil and the deep sea. They will not be able to survive. This is the problem which I bring to the notice of the Food Minister and also the Government.

People are in the grip of starvation. They move from district to district. They do not get any relief. They do not get work. Scarcity is prevailing everywhere. This is the great problem for them. The conditions of the Adivasis in my constituency are very miserable. They are very hard hit and are quite helpless. They used to sell firewood from the jungle to earn their livelihood, but that too is not available now. This is the great problem for them.

As you know, now there is President's rule in Gujarat. So it is the special responsibility of the Central Government to look after the welfare of the State till the next general elections take place. I therefore requset the Central Government to pay proper heed to this problem and give adequate grants to the State so that they can tackle these problems and come out of these difficulties.

District officers like Collectors and DDOs simply plan and do nothing. So please see to it that relief works are started very soon.

Gujarat has a big cattle population. Now the problem of securing fodder for the cattle has become great. There are 78 lakh heads of cattle there. Proper arrangements should be made for procuring fodder. The Maldharis go from place to place to graze their cattle. They used to get fodder from Kutch. But in Kutch scarcity conditions are prevailing for the last four years. This aspect may also be taken into consideration.

The Government should hurry up grant in cash doles to the infirm and aged persons and to distribute grass to the needy cultivators and Maldharis and to grant subsidies to pinjrapoles. Even free kitchens may be started to feed the poor people.

The Government should not sit silent over these matters but should work with speed in tackling these problems. The Central Government has an equal reseponsibility in these matters as the State is under President's rule.

The financial condition of Gujarat is also very critical. This year only 10 lakh tonnes of foodgrains will be produced by the State. So there will be great need to supply foodgrains. Central help by way of grants, foodgrains, whatever is needed by the State, should be rendered to the State.

So far the Government has spent Rs. 8 crores to fight famine conditions in the State. The central team has not given any decision. They must come to proper decisions immediately and they must see to it that proper grants are given to the State.

At least 12 Kilos of foodgrains for month should be supplied to each labourer on relief work. At present present 1 to 2 kilos of foodgrains are supplied monthly to each individual which is nothing.

In the end I appeal to the Prime Minister Indiraji and her Government to take keen interest and go to the rescue of Gujarat Government and do justice to the State in solving financial as well as other difficulties pertaining to food for the people and fodder for the cattle. Nothing should come in their way in solving the problem of the State of Gujarat as it is under the President's Rule.

I once again suggest that Narmada River project may please be imlemented in order to solve the food problem of Gujarat for ever and they should not keen the State in the agony of hunger and starvation by keeping it pending for years together by saying that Government have no money to implement the same.

In the end I suggest that one Cabinet Minister may be kept incharge of the State for solving all the problems till it remains under the President's rule.

I suggest that Babu Jagjivan Ram may take this charge as he is the Food Minister and he will be able to solve the difficulties.

श्री राम सहाय पांडे (राजनन्दगाव) : सभापति जी, मुझे स्मरण है जिस रोज बाबू जगजीवन राम जी की नियुक्ति खाद्य पोर्टफोलियो के लिए की गई उस समय उस में इरीगेशन भी जोड दिया गया। जब सिंचाई विभाग जोड कर आप को यह विभाग दिया गया उसी दिन सारे देश भर में वर्षा हुई यह बात मैं प्रशसा के लिए नहीं कहता हू। यह बात मैं इसलिये कहता हूं कि एक भाग्यवान व्यक्ति के हाथ अगर देश की बागडोर आ जाय तो उस से एक आशा बधनी स्वाभाविक है। कम से कम धान की फसल के मुकाबिले रबी की फसल अच्छी होगी, उस वर्षा का अर्थ यह होगा। आप ने जैसे ही इस विभाग के दायित्व को सभाला वैसे ही विश्व भर के देशो की एक बडी भारी कान्फरेंस खाद्य समस्या के समाधान को लेकर रोम में हुई। आप भारत के प्रतिनिधि होकर उस में गए और वहा पर एक सब से बड़ी उपलब्धि जो प्राप्त हुई वह यह कि सब से पहली बार इतिहास मे जैसे सेक्योरिटी कौसिल पर दुनिया भर के देशो की सुरक्षा का दायित्व है उसी प्रकार से मानव-मात्र को भूख के कष्ट से बचाने और उस के लिए आपसी सहयोग के लिए एक सस्था का जन्म हुआ। उस की प्रेरणा श्री जगजीवन राम ने दी। वर्ल्ड फूड कौंसिल बनी।

[श्री रामसहाय पांडे]

इसके पहले इतिहास में ऐसा अवसर कभी नहीं आया कि सारे विश्व के छोटे और बड़े, समर्थ और असमर्थ, डैवलप और अन-डैवलप्ड या डैवलपिंग, सभी देशों ने एकमत होकर इस प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार किया हो और स्वीकार करने के साथ साथ इस गम्भीर समस्या के प्रति अपना ध्यान दिया हो। इस वक्त विश्व भूगोल की सीमा रेखाएं मिटुड गई है। सह-अस्तित्व की भावना का जन्म हो चुका है। अब यह नहीं हो सकता कि संसार का एक देश या दो देश, चार देश भूखे मरें और कुछ लोग बहुत आराम से रोटी खाएं। चार ही पांच ऐसे देश है आस्ट्रेलिया, कनाडा और अमेरिका जिनके पास अनाज का बाहुल्य है और यही दो तीन मिलियन टन की इंटर-नेशनल ट्रेडिंग करते है। चार्टर के मुताबिक 38 या 40 ऐसे देश है जहां पर कि आवश्यकता के अनुरूप कभी वर्षा होती है कभी नहीं होती, कभी फ्लड आता है कभी सूखा पड़ता है। अर्थात् प्रकृति के प्रकोप की परिधि में वह आ जाते है। हमारी स्थिति भी इसी प्रकार है। यदि हमारे यहां पानी ठीक समय पर बरस जाए तो अनाज की कमी न रहे। हमारे यहां नदियां है, पानी है। संसार का दसवां हिस्सा पानी इस देश को उपलब्ध है। 83 एम॰ सी॰ एम॰ नदियां हमारे देश में बहती है, लेकिन एक वर्षा नियमपूर्वक होने के कारण कहीं पर बाढ़ और कहीं पर सूखा इस से हमें सफर करना पड़ता है। हमारी तृतीय और चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना में यह कल्पना थी कि 110 से 115 मिलियन टन अनाज हम पैदा करेंगे। 107–108 मिलियन टन के निकट हम पहुंच गए थे। 7–8 मिलियन टन का हम ने बफर स्टाक भी बना लिया। यह सोचा था कि अगर कभी यह साइकिल फेल हुई तो हम अनाज की कमी पूरी कर सकेंगे। लेकिन हम ने यह नहीं देखा कि लगातार तीन वर्ष तक मानसून बिगड़ती रही, पानी कहीं अधिक बरसा, कहीं सूखा पड़ा, इसके कारण हमारे देश में अनाज की कमी हो गई और जो बफर स्टाक था हमारा वह समाप्त हो गया। यह पहली बार ऐसा हुआ।

आखिर इसका मूल मंत्र क्या है, खेती का तत्व दर्शन क्या है? बाबू जगजीवन राम जी नेतृत्व में पहली बार यह हुआ कि इरीगेशन को खाद्य के साथ जोड़ दिया गया क्योंकि खेती स्वामी है। सब से पहले उस की प्यास बुझानी चाहिए। जब पानी मिलेगा, खेत को तो फिर फर्टिलाइजर, पेस्टिसाइड्स और हाईब्रिड सीड ये सब चीजें उस के बाद आती है। मैं आपको यहां बहुत बधाई देना हूं। आप ने इरीगेशन की एक्सटेंशन कास्ट के साथ यह कहा प्रधान मंत्री ने कि अब तक सिंचाई विभाग नहीं दिए थे, लेकिन अब से करेंगे। यह प्रशंसा की बात है और मैं समझता हूं कि आपने ऐसा किया। इसलिए इसका किया कि जब तक खेत में पानी नहीं जाएगा तब तक क्या होगा? आज 27 वर्षों के बाद हमारे देश में केवल 23 प्रतिशत सिंचाई का प्रावधान अभी तक हो पाया है और मध्य प्रदेश में तो केवल 8 प्रतिशत है जब कि वहां कितनी ही नदियां हमारी है। नर्मदा है जो गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र और राजस्थान को पानी दे सकती है। उसके झगड़े को भी आप निपटाएंगे, ऐसी हमारी प्रार्थना आपसे

होगी । तो यह सिंचाई विभाग लेने के बाद धरती की प्यास आप बुझायेंगे । यह 44 करोड़ एकड़ खेती हमारे पास हैं । यद्यपि संसार में जितने प्रतिशत खेती होती है धरती पर हमारे पास उसका केवल दो ही प्रतिशत है और उस दो प्रतिशत धरती पर जिसमें खेती होती है 19 प्रतिशत आबादी का लोड है । दस प्रतिशत पानी हमको मिलता है यह हमारी खुश-किस्मती है । उस पानी का यदि हम सिंचाई के प्रबन्ध से नहरों से, नालों से, नदियों से खेत की तरफ उन्मुख कर दें तो हम समझते है कि हम आज से दस ग्यारह वर्ष तक, आबादी चाहे हमारी 2 5 प्रतिशत बढ़ती भी जाय तो भी उनका खाना खिला सकेंगे ।

वफर स्टाक के साथ साथ जो आपने पांच सूत्री कार्यक्रम विश्व सम्मेलन में बनाया उसमें एक तो यह है कि सारे विश्व के देशों ने यह स्वीकार किया किया कि पूल होना चाहिए, वर्ल्ड का वफर स्टाक का पूल । दूसरा है हेल्पिंग प्रोडक्शन । अब हैल्पिंग प्रोडक्शन में यह है कि फर्टिलाइजर्स, पेस्टिसाइड्स और दूसरे आवश्यक उपादान देने चाहिए । तीसरा है मेकिंग दि रिसोर्सेस अवेलेबल, जितने साधन संसार भर में विख्यात है आधुनिक वैज्ञानिक, सब इन देशों को देना चाहिए जो देश इतने प्रगतिशील नहीं है । फिर है ऐट दि टाइम आफ कैलेमिटी, उनकी मदद करनी चाहिए । जोशी जी ने बड़े भावावेश में कहा कि आप भीख मांगते है, त्राहि माम त्राहि माम करते हैं । आज के संसार में भीख का प्रश्न नहीं है सह अस्तित्व की बात है। यह नहीं चल सकता आज की सभ्यता के अन्तर्गत, आज का नागरिकता का यह मौलिक सिद्धान्त बन गया है, मौलिक आदर्श, मौलिक दर्शन बन गया है कि आज यह नहीं हो सकता कि कहीं पर अनाज का अम्बार लगा हो और कहीं पर लोग भूख से मरें । आज जहां से भी चाहे हम खरीदें । जैसे हमने अमेरिका से पी एल-480 की भीख नहीं मांगी । हमने कहा कि हम खरीदेंगे, डालर देकर खरीदेंगे, हमने कैनाडा को पे किया, आस्ट्रेलिया को पे किया । इसमें भीख मांगने की क्या बात है ? हमारे पास जो चीज नहीं है वह हम लेंगे, जो चीज होगी वह हम देंगे । यह जो आदान प्रदान की प्रक्रिया है उसमें भी भीख मांगने की क्या बात है ? आज मानवता का जीवन में सबसे बड़ा महत्व भी है । भीख मांगने की बात नहीं है । अगर हम उनसे उधार मांगे, उनसे कर्ज ले तो उसमें क्या बात है ? आज तो सह-अस्तित्व है । आज भूगोल की सीमाएं सिकुड़ गई हैं । आवागमन के साधनों में दुनिया इतनी निकट हो गई है कि सारे संसार का दर्शन हम कुछ घंटों में कर सकते हैं । तो इसमें क्या बात है ? यदि एक देश में पानी नहीं बरसता, सूखा पड़ गया है तो दूसरी जगह से अनाज ले सकते हैं । जैसे कि लेटिन अमेरिका है जहां परपेचुअल फेमिन है, परपेचुअल फेमिन अफ्रीकन कंट्रीज में है हमारे एशिया के कुछ भू भागों में भी एक परपेचुअल फेमिन की जैसी कंडीशन हो गई है । तो जहां ज्यादा अनाज पैदा होने की प्रक्रिया आरम्भ हो चुकी है; ज्यादा अनाज जो पैदा करते हैं अगर वह उदारता के साथ और एक मानवता के मूल में सम्बद्ध होकर हमारे साथ सहयोग करते हैं सह-अस्तित्व की भावना से तो इसमें भीख मांगने की क्या बात है । और जो आप भाषण करते हैं इस पवित्र

[श्री राम सहाय पांडे]

सदन मे उसको अगर रिप्रोड्यूस किया जाय तो क्या होगा ? हम जो भाषण करते है उसमे एक अपोलोजेटिक ऐटीट्यूड है हम कहते है यह एक नेशनल प्राबलम है । इसमे राजनीति नही आती । रोटी के साथ राजनीति नही आ सकती । रोटी वह चीज है जो हमे सुबह शाम चाहिए ही चाहिए । हमारा परिवार है बेटे बेटिया हैं उनको तो हम खिलाएगे ही । देश के नागरिक खाएगे ही । जिसके ऊपर प्रशासन का दायित्व है वे खिलाएगे ही ।

श्री शिण्डे साहब भी रात दिन इसी प्रयास मे है, श्री जगजीवन राम जी भी इसी मे लगे हुए है, हमारे ऊपर जो दायित्व है उसका निर्वाह होना चाहिए । जहा तक आपके सहयोग का प्रश्न है, चलिये, हम ही सहयोग की भीख मागते है इसमे कोई बुरी बात नही है । अनाज की भीख मागना, मे समझता हू, ठीक नही है, उचित नही है, लेकिन क्या सहयोग की भीख को आप देंगे । लेकिन आप तो बहुत बढा चढा कर चित्र का उपस्थित करते है । महाराष्ट्र मे लोग भूखे मर रहे थे, जरा सोचिये—जब महाराष्ट्र मे अन्न की कमी थी, तो लोकोमेन की स्ट्राइक किसने करवाई थी ? क्या यही सहयोग है ?

जोशी जी ने बडी उदारता से कहा कि हम सहयोग करने को तैयार है । आप सबसे पहले तो सहयोग करने को तैयार ही नही है, यदि तैयार भी हो तो आपका सहयोग लेने से पहले हम को दस मर्तबा सोचना पडेगा कि वह सहयोग क्या होगा ? आप का सहयोग, श्रीमन्, यह है कि जब भाव बढ़ते है तो किसानो के पास जाते है और उनसे कहते हैं कि तुम्हारी खेती मे जो इन्पुट्स लग रहे हैं उनके दाम बहुत ज्यादा है और ऊपर से यह सरकार लेवी लगा रही है दाम कम दे रही है—इस तरह से एक तरफ तो किसानो को भडकाते है, दूसरी तरफ शहर मे जाते है—वहा इनका झण्डा देखा, मच से इनका भाषण हुआ—नागरिको, तुम को 3 रुपये किलो मे लेना पडता है । गाव मे भी आग लगाते हैं और शहर मे भी आग लगाते है—यह इनका सहयोग है । सर, ये राजनीति की आग में सेकते है । हम मना नही करते है खूब सेंकिये लेकिन रोटी के साथ जब राजनीति का इतिहास लिखा जाएगा—तब य बातें छिपी नही रह सकेगी ।

आपने कहा कि मध्य प्रदेश के लोग भूखे मर गये, घास खा रहे है । मे जानता हू—मध्य प्रदेश की क्या स्थिति है । 45 जिलों मे 25 जिले ऐसे है जहा पानी न होने के कारण या वर्षा न होने के कारण कठिनाई पैदा हो गई है । जहा 60 इच पानी बरसता था, वहा 13–14 इच पानी बरसा—एसी स्थिति मे अनाज पैदा हो ही नही सकता, बोआई हो ही नही सकती, कुछ भी पैदा नही हो सकता । जब ऐसी स्थिति हो और दूसरी तरफ भाव बढ रहे हो—तब आप किसी भी विरोधी दल के सदस्य का भाषण कोट करके बतला दे, जिसन यह कहा हो—कि यह राष्ट्रीय समस्या है, कांग्रेस और विरोधी दल की समस्या नही है, यह राष्ट्र की समस्या है, हम मिल कर इस का समाधान करेंगे । किसी ने ऐसा नही कहा ।

हमारे जितने भी कष्ट होते है—प्राकृतिक कष्ट हो, मानव से उत्पन्न कष्ट हो या राजनीति से उत्पन्न कष्ट हो—उस सबका एक्सप्लायटेशन ये राजनीति मे करते है । ऐसी स्थिति मे यदि सहयोग का स्वर भी इन के गले से निकलेगा तो मुझे शक होना स्वाभाविक है ।

अब मे दो शब्द मध्य प्रदेश के सम्बन्ध मे कहना चाहता हू—मैने आप से कहा था कि हमने एक प्रतिवेदन केन्द्रीय सरकार को दिया था जिसमे यह कहा था कि हमारे यहा अनाज की कमी हो गई है । जब मैं यह कहता हू कि अनाज की कमी हो गई है, तो मैं यह भी कहता हू कि हमारे यहा तीन वर्षों से अकाल की स्थिति हो गई है—हम को 10 करोड रुपया-रिलीफ वर्क के लिये दीजिये और 20 हजार टन अनाज तीन-चार महीने तक दीजिये, जब तक कि हमारी फसल न आ जाय । लेकिन अभी तक शिण्डे साहब ने कुछ नही दिया है हालाकि उन्होने आश्वासन जरूर दिया था । मे उम्मीद करता हू कि आप अपने उत्तर मे इसके बारे मे जरूर बतलायेगे । हमारे यहा जैसे रायपुर मे 18,59,250 एकड भूमि मे धान की बोआई की जाती थी, लेकिन इस वर्ष केवल 3 लाख एकड की सिचाई का पानी मिला, बाकी सूखा रह गया । दुर्ग मे 8,85 हजार एकड मे धान की बोआई की जाती है, जिसमे केवल 1 लाख एकड भूमि को पानी मिला । राजनाद गाव मे 595 हजार एकड मे धान की बोआई होती थी, केवल 30 हजार एकड मे बोआई हुई । बिलासपुर मे 15 लाख एकड मे धान की फसल होती है केवल 2 लाख एकड़ की सिचाई का पानी मिला । इसी तरह से छत्तीसगढ, महाकौशल, बेतूल, जहा से साल्वे साहब आते है, माण्डला जहा से उइके साहब आते है, बिलासपुर—जहा से राम गोपाल जी तिवारी आते है—अगर आप इन सब का बोलने का मौका देते, तब आप का वहा की दुख की कहानी सुनने को मिलती । जब हम लोग वहा जाते है तो राहत-कार्य न होने की वजह से हम को कितना कष्ट होता है—आप स्वय इसका अन्दाजा लगा सकते है । लोग बेकार बैठे है, पैसा नही है—हम पैसा मागते है तो आप पैसा नही देते, अनाज मागते है तो अनाज भी नही देत ।

ठीक है—वह दिन राज रोज देखने को नही मिलेगा आज बुरा दिन है तो अच्छे दिन भी आयेगे । हम आशावादी है और प्रकृति मे विश्वास करते है—एक दिन हम रोटी-पर-रोटी रख कर जनता को खिला सकेगे ।

इन शब्दो के साथ मैं इस मोशन का विरोध करता हू ।

श्री रण बहादुर सिंह (सिधि) : सभापति महोदय, भूख से मृत्यु के बारे मे यह जो प्रस्ताव आज सभा के सामने है, उसमे आरोप और प्रत्यारोपो के बीच मे मैं चन्द बाते सभा के समक्ष इसलिये रखना चाहता हू ताकि इन का कुछ निराकरण निकले । आरोपो और उनके जवाबो मे निराकरण ही एक ऐसा शब्द है जो बाकी रह जाता है ।

पहली बात तो मै यह रखना चाहता हू—समद् के सामने यह जो समस्या आई है—इसके लिये हम जो कदम उठाते है, उन कदमो को स्थायी बनाने के लिये इस समय सरकार के

[श्री रण बहादुर सिंह]

पास कौन सी नीतियां है ? जैसे खाद्यान्न की कमी सारे देश में है और जैसा कि कई वक्ताओं ने कहा कि यह कमी अब अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय भी हो चली है । परन्तु मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इस कमी को दूर करने के लिए क्या कोई स्थायी नीति सरकार के सामने है ?

इस सम्बन्ध में मेरा एक सुझाव है और उस सुझाव का जन्म भी यहीं पर उठे हुए कुछ प्रश्नों से हुआ है । जैसा कि श्री० मुखर्जी ने कहा- -हम अभी तक एक हम लिकन के माध्यम से जनतन्त्र की जो परिभाषा बनी थी, उसी पर चलते चले आ रहे है । क्या अब ऐसा सम्भव नहीं आता है कि हम उसमें यह भी जोड दे कि हम अपने कार्यों में जनता को भी शामिल करेंगे । जब खाद्य अन्न की नीति के बारे में विचार होता है तो क्या यह मौलिक सुझाव भी सरकार के सामने रहता है अथवा नहीं-- इसके बारे में एक विशेष मार्ग दर्शन की मुझ अभिलाषा है । इसके साथ मैं कहूं कि हमारे ही क्षेत्र में—रीवा, शहडोल, सीधी, सतना—जहा इस साल ही नहीं, दो वर्षो में 40–45 इंच की बजाय 15–16 इंच वर्षा हुई है, वहा के लोगो ने एक प्रस्ताव सामने रखा है—उनका कहना है कि हम अपने पचायत स्तर पर ही अपने खाद्यान्न का भंडारण करेंगे और इतने पर्याप्त मात्रा में रख लेंगे कि दो-तीन वर्ष भी वर्षा न हो तो हमे किसी से मागना न पड़े । मैं पूछना चाहता हू कि शासन इस प्रकार के प्रस्तावो के बारे में क्या रुख अख्तियार करने का विचार रखता है ? क्या शासन इसे स्वीकार करेगा कि हमारे देश के लोग अपना इन्तजाम स्वयं करें अथवा शासन की नीति यह होगी कि भण्डारण का अनाज ग्राम पंचायत स्तर पर इकट्ठा हो और फिर उसको वहा से उठा कर शहरों में पहुचा दिया जाय । यदि ऐसा होगा तो गावो के लोगों का दिल टूट जायगा, क्योंकि गाव के स्तर पर जब भोजन के लाले पडते है, तो जैसी आज की परिस्थिति है कि हमारे हां गाव मे जहा की जनसंख्या करीब 10 हजार है, उसे हर महीने केवल 8 क्विंटल अनाज मिलता है । मै चाहता हू कि शासन इस के बारे मे स्पष्ट नीति बनायें । क्या भण्डारण ग्राम स्तर पर ग्रामीणों द्वारा स्वीकार होगा अथवा नही ?

इसके अलावा यह भी मै जानना चाहता हू हमारे जिले में अर्थमूवमेंट से टेस्ट वर्क खोलना आवश्यक था क्या और मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने खोले भी परन्तु वहा पर 15, 20 दिन तक मजदूरी नहीं दी जाती, और यदि 50 से कम मजदूर हो जाते है तो काम तुरन्त बन्द कर दिया जाता है । जिन मजदूर को खाना न मिले, उन्हें अगर 15 दिन तक मजदूरी न मिले तो वह दूसरी जगह जाकर काम करने के लिए मजबूर हो जाता है । ऐसी हालत में उस गाव मे रिलीफ वर्क बन्द कर देना कहां तक उचित है ? और ऐसा निर्णय शासन द्वारा लिया जाता है अथवा स्थानीय अधिकारी इसके लिये उत्तरदायी है, यह मैं जानना चाहूगा । इस अवर्षण के कारण हमारे गाव मे सैकड़ो लोग जो बिजली के कनक्शन के लिए पैसा जमा कर चुके है, जब कि आसपास

के इलाके मे बिजली उपलब्ध है और वहा से एक बिजली की लाइन भी जाती रहती वह पिछडा क्षेत्र जिसे सीधी कहते है वहा पर आर० ई० सी० की स्कीम पडी हुई है । वहा की जमीन पथरीली होने की वजह से केवल बिजली के माध्यम से ही सिचाई सम्भव है, इसलिये उन स्कीमो का विशेषकर चितरगी और बिठौली की स्कीमे जो दो साल से यहा पर पडी हुई है उनका शीघ्र पूरा करना चाहिये । बानसागर योजना हमारे लिये एक अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण योजना है जिस के माध्यम से रीवा सीधी, सहडोल जिलो की सात लाख एकड भूमि की सिचाई हो सकती है उस योजना पर जाकि मध्य प्रदेश यू० पी० और बिहार की सरकारो मे समझौता हुए एक साल हो रहा है लेकिन हम सब चिन्तित है कि उस योजना का क्या हुआ । जब कभी पूछते है तो बताया जाता है कि उस वित्त मत्रालय की अभी स्वीकृति नही मिली । इस योजना के बारे मे योजना मत्रालय कहता है कि अभी हमे इसकी रिवाइज्ड प्रोजक्ट रिपोर्ट नही मिली वित्त मत्रालय कहता है कि योजना मत्रालय से हमारे पास माग नही आयी और इसी चक्कर मे हम उस दिन की राह देखते रहे जब सिचाई के माध्यम से हम कृषि के लिये प्रकृति पर निर्भर नही रहेगे और हर स्थिति मे अधिक पैदा कर सकेगे ।

अन्त मे की जो बात मैने सामने रखी है और जिनके बारे मे शासन से मार्गदर्शन की अपेक्षा करता हू मै इतना ही कहना चाहता हू हमारे एक मित्र जो शासकीय सेवा मे है वह हमसे कहा करते थे अशासकीय व्यक्ति । भी है इस देश मे वह है माया और जितना भी शासकीय व्यक्ति है वह है ब्रह्म । जो कुछ भी इस देश मे काम होता है वह ब्रह्म के माध्यम से होता है, और माया तो आती जाती रहती है । जब तक हमारे देश मे यह विचार धारा रहेगी कि शासकीय अधिकारी ब्रह्म है और जब तक माया है तब तक हम इस माया के चक्कर से भी बाहर नही होगे । रायलसीमा मे अकेले 200 रोड रु० पिछले 20 साल मे खर्च हुआ है तो वह माया के जरिये पहुचा है और ब्रह्म जिसके हाथ मे ताकत रहती है कोई स्थायी तौर पर निर्माण कार्य जिसमे आता है, उस ब्रह्म का तबादला हो जाता है और फिर उसमे भेट नही होती । इस माया और ब्रह्म के चक्कर को शीघ्र ही दूर किया जाये तभी हमारा विकास सम्भव हो सकता है ।

SHRI B K DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch Behar) The Hon Mover of the Adjournment Motion has moved it in a fashion as if he has depicted a picture but after carefully listening to him and following him and trying to understand the question I really do not understand what he wanted to depict As a matter of fact certain statements and figures which the hon Mover of the Adjournment Motion put before the House are themselves quite contradictory in nature and with overtones of a political nature and nothing more than that The contradiction is this He asked, why in India since 27 years of our independence this has not happened in this country why thousands and thousands of people are now being faced with lack of utter necessities of their daily lives which position is being faced by people in different parts of the country It simply shows that during the last 27 years such unprecedented circumstances have never happened And if it is really unprecedented then one has to go deeper into this problem to find out what are the reasons for these unprecedented circumstances Millions and millions of people are affected and there is no doubt about this The hon Mover comes from West Bengal and he knows the

[Shri B. K. Daschowdhury]

position. During the last two years if not three years, different parts of the State have been affected both by flood and by drought. Large parts of West Bengal particularly North Bengal and some districts of South Bengal have been immobilised for months and months together because of these unprecedented circumstances and they could not earn their livelihood These are the facts.

But, is it to be the spirit of the Motion to say that these has been failure of the Government, to say that this Government could not supply to the people of this country whatever they needed in terms of basic necessities of their lives like food, shelter, clothing, health, education and so on? I would like the hon. Mover of the Motion and other opposition members who have spoken in favour of this Motion to look at the pages of history beginning from the period of civilisation in general. Was it possible to solve all the problems of the human beings in any time in any part of the history of the civilisation? No. It was not possible. Certain problems were solved but certain new problems came up and attempts are being made to solve those new problems and in this way the process of civilisation will go on from century to century creating history, keeping a link between the past and the present. Therefore we have to face the challanges which may come up from any quarter and we should try to solve them. There is no denying the fact that a vast number of people of this country are below the poverty-line. Even the Planning paper circulated by the Government of India has shown that 40 per cent of the people of this country are below subsistence level. The West Bengal Government itself admitted that even 60 per cent of the population are living below the subsistence level But would it be possible for the friends from the opposition and the Hon. Mover of the Motion to show from their speeches and single report to show that the Government was not alive to the problem or to the situation.

As a matter of fact, the Government of the State was very much alive as was most emphatically stated by my hon. Friend, Shri Mohapatra. All State Governments whether it is Assam or Nagaland or West Bengal or Orissa or Bihar or Gujarat or Maharashtra, whenever such unprecedented situations happened—the Chief Ministers of these States—did their level best to face this challenge. What happened about one month ago? That was not so in any of the States in India. My hon. friend just now referred to Cooch Behar District. The same was the situation here as in most of the States. And most of the State Governments have met the situation and have come forward with all the resources as were available with them. And wherever it was necessary they were extending their help Thousands of people have died due to starvation and all that. Still the State Governments have come forward with the patriotic zeal or impulse to face the unprecedented challenge or situation. Was it possible anywhere else? I now come to West Bengal.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: You had no guts. They had no paise or farthing to spare to West Bengal Government though all demands are coming from there.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Shri Raghu Ramaiah is here. I say that Government is doing its best. As a matter of fact, the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal had helped—the hon. Member quoted that fifty million people of West Bengal were in distress—these people. It is true that they were in distress. What did the West Bengal Government do? 30 to 35 or even 36 per cent of these people was given this relief. As a matter of fact, in my district—Cooch Behar District—this was worst affected—I may tell you that 17 per cent

of the people were allowed the gratuitous relief known as G.R. In Cooch Behar alone, 73 schemes were taken up to give this immediate relief to the needy people. A number of gruel kitchens have been opened. Until 5th of November or let us say in the first week of November till I came here to attend the Parliament session, while I was in my constituency, it was within my knowledge, that everyday 25 to 30,000 people were fed by this gruel kitchen either arranged by Government or arranged in cooperation with certain charitable organisations. They requested some of the organisations to supply meals at a cheap rate of 20 or 25 paise a meal. They were supplying the same at 85 paise or so from the cheap kitchen. In various ways, in Cooch Behar, out of 50 lakhs people, the Government could give relief to the extent of five to six lakhs of people on each and everyday. Was it possible? Even during the U.F. Government's time in West Bengal we have seen the situation and hardly 2 to 3 per cent of G.R. was given. It is also true that because of these tremendous pressure on West Bengal Government, whatever was sanctioned in their budget for the relief measures was already spent. They have already spent more than Rs. 18 crores or so. They were going to spend Rs. 30 crores or so for which West Bengal Government is going to ask for nearly Rs. 15 crores as assistance from the Centre. What the hon. Member wanted to say was this. I would like to request him whether at the time of moving his Resolution, he had mentioned this particular aspect that the West Bengal Government wanted Rs. 15 crores from the Centre, and the Centre said 'You cannot be helped looking to the impending necessities of the humanity at large in this part of the country'. He forgot in his own emotion to mention it; rather he mentioned some other things. I do not deny that.

I would say there is a basic thing that has to be taken cognisance of. Of course, because of these crop failures, this has happened. But more so a new look has to be given. What is it? There must be a land-population ratio, particularly for the agricultural sector. In some parts of the country where the people are mainly affected, in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Andhra, Maharashtra or anywhere else, if one goes very deeply into this matter, one will find that land-population ratio in a particular region, in one or two districts of a region or one or two sub-divisions of districts and so on, is not there; if it was there, the poor agricultural families could maintain their livelihood by forming their own agricultural land. What is more needed is to take care of the extra labour force that is added every year because of the jumping up of the the population. This extra labour force must be absorbed by giving some economic rehabilitation benefit or assistance. For these schemes have to be prepared. Fortunately, the Central Government have for the first time given a direction to all State Government: 'You have your own State Planning Boards and you have your own district plans'. The process of district planning is going on throughout the country, not only in West Bengal, Orissa, Assam and some other States. When this is properly finalised, I believe this Government will be in a position to give certain economic rehabilitation assistance to all those poorer sections of society, particularly the agricultural labour, those who are now outnumbered, so that in an emergency, when they get immobilised and do not have the money to purchase their daily necessities, they get this rehabilitation assistance and then this source of trouble will no longer be there

I do hope the Government will expedite this process. I would beg of the Government on behalf of the West Bengal and other Governments that whatever special relief the State Governments have asked because of these peculiar circumstances they should give them grants very liberal-

[Shri B K Daschowdhury]

ly and not stick to the principle enunciated by the Sixth Finance Commission that no further grant should be given Taking into consideration that this is a peculiar circumstances, the scheme of special grants by the Centre to all the schemes for the district plans at least for the development of backward regions, should be approved as early as possible

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY (Kendrapara) Before I begin to offer my comments on the adjournment motion I would crave your indulgence to give me a few more minutes if I cross my time limit

MR CHAIRMAN You are a very good speaker you can finish your speech in time

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY I will try to but if I do not I crave your indulgence for a few more minutes

Listening to the speeches that have flowed from the Congress benches I feel one common strand runs through all of them do not make a political capital out of the food situation and the starvation stalking the land leading to deaths I would invite the attention of the House to Entry 33 of List III of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution under which the Government of India has the responsibility of supplying and distributing foodstuffs including edible oilseeds and oils So my submission will be that failure of the Government of India to supply and distribute foodgrains in the famine-stricken States has resulted in a man-made femine and if for bringing this into proper focus, it is alleged that we are making political capital out of it I plead guilty to that charge I do not want to mince matters The question of starvation deaths is a political question it cannot be a humanitarian question only, it cannot be a question which is beyond the purview of politics

Having said that, I would say that every mute corpse that is collapsing today on the footpaths of the cities and is rolling on the dust of the village lanes bears eloquent indictment of the failure of the Government of India and also the failure of the State Governments

It is a sad irony that the man who was primarily responsible for the failure of the Government of India on the food front, instead of being indicted and punished is today adorning the Rashtrapati Bhawan (*Interruptions*)

MR CHAIRMAN No references like this

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior) Could we not discuss the conduct of the former Food Minister (*Interruptions*)

MR CHAIRMAN I have already advised Mr Mohanty not to make any such references that should be the end of it

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) Before you give the ruling will you kindly tell us if we want to discuss the behaviour of the former Food Minister in what way this is to be done? Or are all the crimes committed by the former Food Minister to be wiped out now from the memory of all Indians?

MR CHAIRMAN We are concerned with the present Food Minister and not with the past Food Minister

SHRI PILOO MODY Will you quote the rule under which you have given this ruling because as far as I know there is no bar on mentioning the Rashtrapati?

DR KAILAS (Bombay South) He can make a reference to the past Food Minister but he cannot say that he was inducted as Rashtrapati That is objectionable

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: Now I will come to the present Food Minister. The present Food Minister visited Rome for the World Food Conference where he is reported to have stoutly denied any starvation deaths in India. The House would be interested to know from him how much fat tax he has paid in the World Food Conference. According to Press reports in the lobby of the Food Conference in the Congress Palace the delegates were confronted with a scale which was urging them to weigh themselves and pay a voluntary fat tax at the rate of 3 dollars for every 2 lbs. over their ideal height-weight ratio. The fat tax fetched 150 dollars for the freedom from hunger campaign These fat obese men who met in Rome discussed the problem of hunger of the world.... (*Interruptions*).

What did these entrustic gentlemen do in Rome? According to Press reports emanating from Rome on November 17th "While the 1,250 delegates representing 123 nations at the World Food Conference talked a lot about hunger they also did a lot of eating, reports the associated Press. What did they eat? They consumed 6 tonnes of pastry, 6 tonnes of meat, a tonne of fish, 7 tonnes of fruits and 8,000 quarts of wine, beer and mineral water, according to the conference caterers. Their expenditure on food alone during the eleven day conference was about 2.7 lakhs dollars.' In that euphoric context I would not be surprised if Babu Jagjivan Ram denies any starvation deaths occurring anywhere in India.

For his kind information, here is the screaming headline in *Times of* India, a paper very much with the Congress Party: "2 million starve in Orissa". Here is *Patriot*, which is more loyal than the king. Its headline screams "Starvation deaths in Bhubaneswar". While starvation deaths are stalking the land, in a smug way the Congress Party has been preaching us sermons and telling us what to speak and what not to speak Who is responsible for this? I make bold to say it is the failure of the Government in its food policy which has resulted in a man-made famine I call it man-made deliberately because there is no scarcity of foodgrains in the bazzar. It is available but the prices are beyond the purchasing capacity of the people, as a result of which people are dying like rats in a blind alley.

Much has been said of the dehoarding drive of the Congress Party and their loyal ally, the Communist Party. It had been bandied about that this year the Congress Government would procure 5 million tonnes of wheat and the Congress Party with their loyal allies went about drum-beating "dehoarding drive". But their procurement is not going to exceed 2 million tonnes, in spite of all these exercises

Coming to Orissa, last year we had a bumper crop and the Congress Government's target was to procure 4 lakh tonnes of rice Under the pressure of the hoarders, it was reduced to 3 lakh tonnes. 3 lakh tonnes were smuggled out by road, rail and sea with their connivance, as a result of which their procurement today would not exceed 2 lakh tonnes. When Government was confronted with a very serious situation with no food stocks and people dying of starvation, the Congress Government and their allies, the Communist Party—which I call 'B' team of the Congress—surrendered themselves to the hoarders and millers, and the dual price system came Millers were told, "You can procure any quantity, but you have to give 50 per cent as levy The other 50 per cent you can sell at any price anywhere you like." The result is today you have allowed the millers to have this dual price system and sell rice at Rs 3. What is the purchasing capacity of the people in the State? When 80 per cent of the people live

[Shri Surendra Mohanti]

below the poverty line, you can imagine the purchasing capacity of the people in the State of Orissa. Then, how much have you done in test relief? It will not exceed Rs. 1.05 crores. Shri S. S. Mohapatra was waxing eloquent about the munificence of the Central Government. How much have you given to the Orissa Government? You have given 23,000 tonnes in October, which is the lowest which have been allotted to other afflicted States. I do not grudge the allotments to other States. They are also having starving people and I am glad you are helping them adequately. You are giving to Bengal 1,15,000 tonnes, Gujarat 77,000 tonnes and Bihar 60,000 tonnes. But how much are you giving to Orissa? Only 23,000 tonnes. I think Assam is the lowest with 18,000 tonnes and Orissa comes next with 23,000 tonnes. But even then, the population involved in Assam is lower than in Orissa I make bold to say that the failure of the Government policy on the food front has resulted today in a man-made famine, the kind of which we had not in living memory.

18.00 hrs.

Now the question is what is going to be done for the future. The Government do not seem to have any clear food policy In the course of the reply to the debate would the Food Minister tell us what is the actual food requirement till the next khariff or rabi crop? In Rome he declined to mention what is the actual food requirement. We do not know what is the actual food requirement. The Government do not say confidently that they will be able to face the food situation. They take umbrage behind the recommendation of the Fifth Finance Commission and they do not grant any money that would be required by the States for undertaking adequate relief work. Kalahandi and Balasore are the rice bowls of Orissa. It is a cruel irony that famine is stalking those districts of Kalahandi and Balasore and a number of starvation deaths are taking place, not because foodgrains are not available but because the people have not got the purchasing capacity. I would like to know what purchasing capacity you are going to enthuse among the consumers so that they will be able to purchase foodgrains so that they will be able to survive.

The Food Minister should take this House into confidence and tell us what is the actual food requirement. He should also tell us whether they have abandoned the policy of State trading in foodgrains and whether they have surrendered themselves to the monopoly interests.

I want the Government to assure us that not a single man would be allowed to die of starvation. With these words, I very strongly support the adjournment motion moved by Professor Samar Guha. As I said in the beginning, every mute corpse that is collapsing and rolling on the dust of the village lanes and bylanes is an eloquent indictment of the callousness, lack of sympathy and lack of understanding of this Government and the failure of its policies

SHRI B. R. SHUKLA (Bahraich): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know how hard-pressed for time you are. But that is no fault of mine. In this House, there is so much difficulty about distribution of time. You can very well imagine how difficult it would be about the distribution of food articles in those parts of the country where floods and famines are affecting the millions of our countrymen.

The question is not that the situation is not grave. The Government is quite alive to the gravity of the situation. The food scarcity is there. The question is whether the Government deserves censure for failure to meet effectively the situation which is partly man-made and which is mainly as a result of natural calamities. The food scarcity is not

mainly due to the failure of rains or excessive rains. If in one year there is failure of rains or there are excessive rains, then there should not be any food shortage because there are other years in which there are bumper crops. Therefore, the Government should so manage the food affairs that there should be sufficient buffer-stock to meet any eventuality which is caused by flood or famine.

The Government has, therefore, taken right steps to take over the wholesale trade in wheat It also tried to take over wholesale trade in paddy. But the hon. Members occupying the Opposition Benches raised a hue and cry and they tried to sabotage the scheme. In order to meet the difficult situation, the Government modified the scheme of wholesale trade. It was followed by hoarding, profiteering and black-marketing by foodgrain dealers who had given a solemn assurance to provide sufficient and adequate foodgrains for distribution by fair price shops. But they failed in honouring their commitment. Therefore, there was reversion to the taking over of wholesale trade policy in foodgrains. However, that could not succeed to a very material extent.

Now, since our present Minister has assumed the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, he rightly pointed out that there is not so much dearth of foodgrains in the country. What is necessary is that rich farmers should be compelled to de-hoard the foodgrains which they have hoarded, motivated by profit. The anti-smuggling operations have been started. When these operations are making a visible, marked, dent on the lowering of the prices of essential commodities, the hon. Members opposite, irrespective of their party commitment, are raising a hue and cry. They are saying that their fundamental rights to freedom and property are in jeopardy. The President who is duly authorised because of the State of Emergency in the country to suspend the enforcement of fundamental rights is being decried. The other day, these very hon. Members who are so vociferous about the cause of the poor and the exploited people in these parts of the country where there is scarcity and famine are now saying that this is an arbitrary act, that this is something which cuts at the very root of our democracy and, therefore, they staged a walk out.

Today, they are coming with an adjournment motion. The hon. Member, Shri Samar Guha, is in a perpetual state of emotion and he is always given to exaggeration. The regard for truth and fact is foreign to him.

Prfo Mukherjee spoke in anguish He is in state of distress because he is seeing and witnessing failures and lapses in some parts of his own State So, let us not take note of these things.

Now, in a few minutes I will put certain concrete facts which will highlight the achievements of the State Governments and also the Central Government.

Bihar has got 275,000 tonnes. .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have a problem. I want the House to note it My predecessor has decided that the Government reply should begin at 6.30. My list is still quite long. I do not think all members can speak if the Minister is to reply at 6.30 3 to 4 Members can speak and each should not take more than 5 minutes

SHRI B. R. SHUKLA: There is a dyarchy in the functioning of the Agriculture and Food Ministry between the States and the Centre. The Government is oblivious of the situation except when some abnormal situation arises and taking advantage of the opportunity furnished by this debate, I will say that in UP although there is no famine condition, there is no allegation of starvation

[Shri B. R. Shukla]

and there are, in fact, no starvation deaths, the irrigation facilities are so negligible that it needs the concentration of the attention of the hon. Food Minister who fought a war against a foreign country and brought it to a splendid finish and I hope that the food situation also would be tackled by him in the same effective and splendid way and there will be no cause for anxiety in the country.

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar): With regard to the food situation in the country, much has been said and I will confine myself to the State of Orissa where the situation is unthinkable and the miserable plight of about 120 lakhs of people, even according to the Government's statistics, has become so miserable that it is unprecedented in the magnitude. Therefore, here the question is that everybody talks about the miseries of the people. Even my respected friend on my right, Shri Mohanty of BLD has also expressed his sympathies for the miseries of the people But he did not even make a single suggestion how it can be solved, whether we shall have wholesale trade in rice or any other suggestion. If the prices have gone up and if there is hoarding, who are the people who are benefited? Is he in a position to make a reference to it? Therefore, I have nothing much to criticise either the Pragati Party which has now taken the shape of BLD because all through the Biju, Mehtab, and Singh Deo's rule, what has happened in Orissa? When they were ruling, the same conditions of famine, the same scarcity conditions were there which are man made and they are continuing till to-day. But this time, our State has gone to the level of 1918 as far as the rainfall is concerned.

It is something beyond our imagination so far as drought situation is concerned. Why are they not prepared to change the allotment. I want to know. The report of the Sixth Finance Commission has said, Rs. 3 crores; 1.5 crores is to be given by the State and Rs. 1.5 crores is to be borne by the Centre. Our demand has been this. We demanded Rs. 20 crores for immediate rushing of test-relief programmes and for that the minimum of Rs. 19 crores would be necessary. I wish to point out in this connection that only 0.1 per cent of the total institutional finance has been allotted for Orissa. This has to be increased for rabi crop immediately to make up for the shortage of 20 lakh tonnes of rice As far as the institutional finance is concerned, this must be immediately increased for Orissa. 46 lakhs of tonnes of rice was produced last year. 36 lakh tonnes of rice is to be consumed in the State. That is their requirement. And, 10 lakh tonnes are the balance out of which 2 lakh tonnes could be procured. The rest remained with the hoarders. On behalf of my party therefore we demand that there should be dehoarding drive and the BLD people and some people who are inside Congress, who are in league with those hoarders, went out to the extent of assaulting three of our comrades, one of whom was a harijan who was killed in the village Podamari simply because he participated in dehoarding drive which brought about 1500 quintals of paddy. In spite of the order from the Government the police people have not cooperated but they helped the hoarders and I demand that they should be taken to task and the severest punishment should be accorded to them and they should be dismissed from service.

In answer to my Question No. 992 the Minister stated that it has been planned to increase the production of summer rice from about 3 million tonnes in 1973-74 to 4.5 million tonnes in 1974-75. That means even for this 45 lakh tonnes there is no crash programme. He said 'No crash programme has been drawn as such'. Therefore, how can you meet the

deficit in Orissa this year, to the tune of 20 lakh tonnes of rice? That is only in one State. In my district from where Mr. Giri also comes, the condition is such that it is already declared to be a 'famine area'. We demanded one lakh dug wells and one thousand tube-wells which was quite possible. But they take the plea about want of rigs. I do not know why it should not be brought from Punjab or from outside. You cannot take the plea that bureaucrats and Pragati poeple were ruling for 26 years and they are responsible for all this. Such types of excuses and plea cannot be allowed when people are dying of starvation. Immediate aid should be given in required quantities. Institutional credit has to be increased by 10 per cent. At present this is 0.1 per cent only. This should be immediately increased. All the incomplete irrigation projects and Central Projects like Rare Earth Factory should be completed. There should be coordination between concerned departments and Planning Commission. We have difference with the Chief Minister of Orissa regarding food policy. But they depend upon three pillars. Three pillars who are supporting them are the hoarders, the millers, the traders and the producers.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: May I set right the record here? While we were in office we procurred 4 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains. It has been reduced to 2 lakh tonnes now. We set that thing right when we were in office.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: My basic question is this. If we depend on these hoarders, milliers and producers as well as big landlords—we expect 70 per cent procurement from these people—they can never help you.

Coming to fertilisers 80 per cent the requirement is given to these landlords. (*Interruptions*). We never expect the B.L.D. people to come to power. It is out of question. We will consistently fight against these hoarders and these big landlords. In the last election we fought against the same blackmarketeers and some of these big monopolists and capitalists.

So my only suggestion is this. A minimum of Rs. 10 crores should be allowed to Orissa. Otherwise a very critical situation may take place. Already the situation is very worse and it is worsening day by day. Therefore, with the central aid that you may rush in, the Orissa Government should also change their policy as far as procerument and distribution system are concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall call the Minister at 6.30. I cannot help it. Mr. Munsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: (Calcutta—South) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall confine myself only with a few suggestions.

So far as the speech of my friend Prof Guha is concerned, he spoke with emotion perhaps. He spoke about his constituency only. He might not have visited the other places in West Bengal. If he has really visited the other places like M.P. etc., he would have known the conditions existing there. Under the present economic system in our country, it may not be satisfactory so far as distribution of foodgrains is concerned. It is partly true that the people are also not happy at the moment.

What I would like to emphasise here is this that it is not wise to exaggerate things which are really not true as it sometimes confuses the people and they may take advantage of the present situation in doing certain things which are not called for. The situation in Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Madhya Pradesh and other places is not quite smooth. I

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi]

have also visited some of these areas and I can certainly say that the Government of India and the State Governments like Assam, Bengal, M.P. and U.P. have been able to tackle the situation well. In spite of the crisis that we see at the present moment, I can say with courage and conviction that it is rather unexpected of the people how to face that situation and control it. About two months before, I have myself seen the situation in Bengal and I can say that it was rather difficult to understand how it could be tackled. I can proudly say that the situation was tackled by the Government and the party and the people there in a right manner which is not comparable with any of the situation obtaining in any part of the country. Prof. Guha is interested to politicalise the issue. I can say that the gruel kitchen in West Bengal—I myself have visited this—is an example of what they have done.

The allocation of food assistance and central finance to all the States is really not satisfactory. We know it. But how does the Centre get money or foodgrains? From the different States after procurement. If that is not satisfactory, how can there be a proper and systematic distribution system? We must understand this.

What I would emphasise is this In spite of this crisis, when a call was given by Government to all the political parties to fight the menace and when a dehoarding operation went on on a big scale, except the Congress and the CPI from the Opposition, not a single Opposition party took any initiative in giving support to this measure. When we were fighting the hoarders in West Bengal, Prof. Samar Guha was busy with JP (*Interruptions*) You people kept quiet at that time. Do not talk like this. You ask your leader. Three crores were unearthed before the Puja festival. Your party was keeping quiet and giving shelter to the hoarders for getting money. You only shout here and in the streets When relief operations were going on, you tried to collect people in the streets and instigated them to fight against Government. Even then you could not do anything. So please keep quite. With the support of Prof. Guha, JP, BLD and others, you are not going to come into power in five years You keep quiet.

18.27 hrs.

[SHRI VASANT SATHE *in the Chair*]

What I want to submit to the Food Minister is that in the present situation food and irrigation alone can deal with the present situation. If you really want to fight the situation, you must not concern yourself only with allocation of foodgrains You must think of tackling some basic problems. The peasants and farmers have got to be inspired. I know he supports the downtrodden But he must immediately call a conference of all the Food Ministers and finalise measures for a minimum wage for agricultural labour. He should also expedite land reforms. Then he should attend to the utilisation of subsoil water. These measures alone can help us to deal with the present situation fully.

I know I can count on the wisdom of the Food Minister. But he should not be influenced by the comments of the Opposition and their exaggeration. While they speak inside the House like they did, outside they are busy with JP. Do not take cognisance of their speeches. Prof. Guha is mourning and is frustrated seeing the huge rallies of the Congress in Bihar and Jaipur. This has also made him angry. But I would request the Food Minister to do his utmost on the lines of the suggestions I have made.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mavalankar.

Some hon Members *rose*—

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have been requested by the Minister of Parlia-

mentary Affairs categorically in writing that positively at 6.30 the hon. Minister has to be called. So at least as far as the government side is concerned, those members who have not been able to participate so far will have to forego their claim. Shri Mavalankar will kindly cooperate by taking only five minutes.

DR. KAILAS: You may allow one or two members one or two questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Afterwards.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Quite frankly, I should have liked this debate to be based differently, not on the basis of an adjournment motion because in such a motion aggressive and defensive postures are struck. This is not a matter of any party alone, this is a matter which concerns the entire nation. Therefore, I would have liked Government themselves to have come forward with a motion for discussion soon after the return of Shri Jagjivan Ram from the Rome conference.

Anyway I would suggest that we cannot make speeches here purely and exclusively on the basis of emotions. If emotions can feed people, let us have more of them. But we have to think in terms of certain concrete proposals and concrete ideas. This problem is not something which only our country is facing. It is a global problem; it is a problem particularly facing the entire developing world. I have not the time to go into details. But look at the two books which have come out. One is by Barbara Ward and Rene Dubos *Only One Earth*. It is published in the form of a report in time for the Rome conference. It clearly lays down certain basic facts. The developing countries of the world are facing this tremendous problem. While population is increasing at the rate of 11.5 per cent, in spite of the utmost effort food supply is increasing only by 6.9 per cent.

That report says that the widening gap has to be bridged until we do something concreately and massively about increasing food supplies and restricting the population, I am afraid that we will go on attacking and defending and that is not the way to solve the problem. I wish that this motion had come in different form. I am glad that no less a person than Shri Jagjivan Ramji has become the new Food Minister. Babuji returned from Rome recently. Even in Rome he must have seen that the Rome Conference produced more words than food. I would have very much liked the Government of India to advance the idea of the World Food bank so that irrespective of ideological differences would go to those countries which are in need of it, irrespective of whether they are behind the iron curtain ... (*Interruptions*).

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह (चतरा) : साढ़े छ: बज गए है। सभापति महोदय, अगर आप और टाइम बढ़ाएंगे तो दूसरों को भी बोलने का टाइम देना पड़ेगा। यह केवल आप की बात में याद दिला रहा हू।

सभापति महोदय: मेहरबानी करके सुने। मैंने पाच मिनट में मावलकर जी खत्म करें, ऐसा उनसे कहा था। जब मैं यह कह रहा था तब पाच मिनट का कुछ समय तो मैंने ही ले लिया आप लोगों को समझाने में, इसलिए मैं आशा करता हू बाबू जी उतना दो मिनट का समय मावलकर जी के लिए देंगे।

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I am glad that a seasoned and eminent Parliamentarian Shri Jagjivan Ram has taken charge of this portfolio and I am hopeful that agriculture will receive the right priority. Secondly, the food produced should be distributed properly and it should not be allowed to be hoarded by criminal and anti-social elements. The public distribution system should be strengthened.

[Shri P. G. Mavalankar]

We must change our attitude. Instead of trying to go head with industrialisation we must first set our agriculture right by having a right priority. If we do that the other sectors will take care of themselves. Let food, and agriculture be given the first priority. Our priorities were misplaced. If we have to produce more food, major and minor irrigation works and the generation of electrical energy should also be given equal importance. In this context I do not want to repeat what has been said about the Narmada Water dispute. It should be expedited by the Tribunal because that is the only way to solve the problem quickly. The recommendations of the Finance Commission make it impossible for drought hit States to get adequate financial assistance. States like Orissa, and Gujarat must be given massive assistance. I come from Gujarat and this year we had great difficulties Jagjivan Ramji knows that it will be very difficult next year, beginning from January 1975. Kharif has gone and Rabi is not promising That is the condition in many other parts of the country also. If we give agriculture the first priority, within the forceable future, next five or ten years, things would improve I hope that the new Minister with his experience and resourcefulness will tackle the situation effectively and boldly.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): Sir, I approach the delicate subject of food, which is no doubt in a distressing situation, with all the humility at my command. I agree with the last speaker that the best way to discuss the subject would have been not through a censure motion, especially at a time when fortunately for the country, the wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities have shown a markedly downward trend. I have said that food is a very delicate subject and it reacts very sharply to even the slightest suggestion this way or that way. So, while discussing it, care should be taken to see that we do not disturb the trend that has started in the country. I am not saying that the country is not passing through a very difficult situation. It is, nobody can say it is not. That is not the claim of the Government. The problem created by flood and drought is colossal. The area and population involved are much larger than the area and population of many countries of the world. To tackle such a problem to the General satisfaction of the people involved is something which should be appreciated.

Prof. Guha who initiated the debate is an emotional person. In all sincerity he puts the subject with all the emotion that he possesses. He started with the humanitarian in him being the uppermost. But when he was ending the politician in him overpowered the humanitarian in him. I have all appreciation for what he said. Only he has not the proper appreciation of the situation we are dealing with. I will not claim that there is no distress to the people in the affected areas. There is, but everything will have to be judged in the context of the overall national situation what is our national income, what is our per capita income, what is our lowest per capita income, what percentage of our people have the income with which they can afford to have nutritious food, what percentage have income with which they can only subsist and what percentage have income with which it is very difficult even to subsist. So, the present situation will have to be judged in the context of the overall national situation You cannot judge it apart from that. I think if Mr. Samar Guha will bring his scientific, analytical mind to bear on the subject, he will agree that whatever has been done in this matter, i.e. providing relief in affected areas, is really an achievement by the government. He has said that this question should not be considered from a political angle. As Food Minister, I would make it quite

clear that politics in the matter of food and agriculture has never weighed with me and shall never weigh with me.

People are in distress. But is it correct to say that because of that alone there are starvation deaths? When we hear so many people have died of starvation, is it not open for us as responsible persons to verify at least a few of them to see whether those allegations are really correct and borne out by facts or not? When we at the Centre hear such reports, when such reports are brought to our notice by some persons, or they appear in newspapers, we do refer them to the proper agency in the States concerned, and it is only after verification by them that we make any statement whether there have been starvation deaths or not. This again will have to be considered in the context of the overall national situation. Something appears in the paper and some people read between the lines. Or the correspondent himself says "it is reported that such a thing has happened"; he does not take the responsibility for what he says or sends to the newspaper. That sense of objectivity is not there whether the reporter verifies what has been reported is correct or not before the news is published. If a verification is done we will find that many of the cases reported are not correct.

I have got figures of cases which have been verified by the State Governments, on the basis of the allegations made, and in some cases it has been found that the people who have been alleged to have died of starvation are still alive and are in proper health. Then it is found that some people who have been reported to have died because of starvation recently had actually died a few years ago.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: It is cruel to quote only one or two such instances.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I would request Samar Babu to have some patience. I will straightway say that this does not mean that there is no case of distress. Having said that in some cases after verification we found that some people who have been reported to have died are still alive and some people who have been reported to have died of starvation recently died a few years ago, I would straightway concede there are cases where people have continuously been in distress for want of purchasing power.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): Do you mean to say that there is no starvation death? Please reply categorically.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I will not reply categorically. If you have commonsense, you can understand it.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: By referring to common sense you are trying to cover up a reality... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: In our country even in normal times there is a large percentage of our population whose income is such that they cannot afford to have nutritious food. If you follow that, what is the inference?

SHRI NOORUL HUDA: Please tell us.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I said you can draw your inference.

SHRI NOORUL HUDA (Cachar): The motion is on starvation deaths and there are reports of starvation deaths ...(*Interruptions*). We have gone to those places ourselves and seen the condition ....(Interruptions.)

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I am not yielding. So, according to the convention what others speak should not be reported.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would inform hon. Members that only when the Minister yields they can speak. I do not want to strike out of the proceeding anything now. But please bear this in mind.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The difficulty with the hon. Members is that they want me to serve their political ends. I may assure them I am not going to oblige them.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: The way you are replying will serve our purpose.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Why do you feel so much disturbed then. I am stating the facts. These are the facts.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: The Assam Government has admitted that there have been starvation deaths.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I repudiate that. Why are you so anxious for admission of starvation deaths? You want that that will serve your political purpose? You do not want to serve the national purpose.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: You are also trying to cover up politically by saying that there are no starvation deaths... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: You took a flight to Rome. You cannot see anything except Rome. What you see is nothing but Rome. (*Interruptions*). I am amazed that when we are discussing a very serious situation, the people brazen-facedly try to bring in humour in that.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: I take strong exception to this kind of remark by the Minister. He cannot get away by calling the Opposition Members brazen-faced. It is beyond your dignity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not unparliamentary; you know the English language very well.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I do not propose to offend anybody. But I must again repeat that when we are discussing a serious question in which the whole nation is involved, in which a large number of people are suffering, does it behove any hon. Member of this House to bring in lighter or humorous things in that I am putting it to you in all seriousness. If anybody mistook me of what I said, I would again appeal to him to revise his opinion. If he would consider in his cooler and saner moments, he would feel what he said was not justified on an occasion like this.

I need not go into the question how it has been said by hon. Member that due to failure of rains consecutively for three years and then excessive rains in certain large parts of the country, like north Bihar, North Bengal, Assam, the standing crop was practically damaged. In certain parts, there were drought conditions and in many areas, the kharif crop could not be sown. Even where it was transplanted, for want of rain and lack of irrigation facilities, it completely dried away. That was the serious situation that the country was faced.

We had some reserves of foodgrains, as the House is aware and procurement was also done. We tried to maintain the minimum of the distribution system.

My approach to this problem in the areas affected whether by flood or drought, is that if the affected people are provided with some purchasing power, we can avoid misery for them. The necessity, therefore, for carrying on hard manual work, light manual work and even in certain cases, providing consumption loans to the people who are not in a position to engage themselves due to physical condition or social customs of society either in hard manual work or light manual work. That is the way we can avoid misery to the people. I am specially using the word 'misery' because though it may not be starvation point, still they are put to a miserable condition and if you provide them the purchasing power, that is the only way

to avoid misery and distress to the people because even if the foodgrains are made available and one has nothing to purchase the foodgrains, that is not going to help them. Therefore, we insist on the State Governments to start free kitchens to start provision of subsidised rotis and also provision of hard manual work so that one can earn. All these three things have been done in the affected areas. One can say that the scale on which they have started is not commensurate with the population that is involved Well, that, again, may be a matter of opinion. But what we have tried to do is that we have asked the state Governments that in all the affected areas, affected by flood or drought, works should be started so that the people get the purchasing power. But where it is not possible to start the work as for instance, in Assam. North Bengal and Orissa, large scale kitchens have been started where people are given free food. There may be that at some places the arrangements may be found not satisfactory by some. May be that in certain areas on a particular day there was a larger influx of people than the number for which the provision is made in the kitchen and as a result, they could not have been served. I cannot rule out such a contingency happening in a condition where we are dealing with a problem on a collossal scale and I think things have happened at places. We have been trying to see that more satisfactory arrangements, develop.

A reference has been made to the new dispensation the Finance Commission has made that every State will have to provide some amount as suggested by the Finance Commission for such natural calamities and in the first place, that amount is to be depended upon in such a situation developing in a particular State. But the Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission have taken care to see that when this amount is exhausted, the work does not suffer and that the amount that may be set apart in the next budegt may be spent this year. The arrangement has been made because whether it is deficit financing or inflation, human misery has to be avoided.

Then, the sowing season has started. Fortunately, last month's rain has been of immense value both to the kharif crops that were standing and also for the ensuing Rabi season. In certain parts of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra where the kharif crops were not completely damaged this rain has revived the crops. Certainly, it has been very very beneficial for the ensuing Rabi season which has just started.

I visited some areas and I found that the kharif jowar and cotton in Maharashtra and some of the standing paddy crops in certain areas of Orissa have benefited. Also in Bihar in Chhatisgarh the rain has been beneficial and it has given a new sense of confidence among the farming community There have been widespread rain in Gujarat especially in sowing areas. This has not only given a new sense of confidence to the farmers but it has also reduced the burden on the Government.

As soon as I took over I said and I say this on the basis of the knowledge that I have of the Indian villages. I said that the shortage of foodgrains was not as much as it was shown to be because I knew that the farmers, ——I mean the rich farmers, —were holding on to their stocks, in the expectation that they will get the higher price, if they hold on. And when I wrote to the State Governments for taking necessary action to dehoard the stocks, well, it had some effect When stocks came forward, when they came to the market, naturally the prices showed a downward trend. Farmers in our country are very wise men; they are very patriotic men as well. They will not try to hold the nation to ransom because they will see that very valuable foreign exchange is not wasted if they could bring out the stocks which they

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are holding. I told them, if they cling to their stocks any further, well, they will lose much more than what they are expecting. It had naturally some effect. Apart from that, I wrote to the State Governments to take action for de-hoarding from the farmers, that is, the big farmers. I suggested to the State Government that steps will have to be taken under the Essential Commodities Act, Defence of India Rules and also the MISA. As a result of various steps taken in this regard nearly one lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been dehoarded. If effort continue like this more foodgrains will be released. And, with the prospect of next rabi crop, with the falling prices, I am sure, more and more foodgrains will be coming to the mandis.

Mr. Mohanty asked me what amount I require I will tell him if he comes to me. But I will not announce it here.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: What is the harm if you announce it here? Why can't you take the House into confidence?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: What reaction it will have in the market? How can that be announced here?

19.00 hrs.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I am not announcing it. When you will come to me I will tell you what my requirement is and also the harm that will be caused if I announce it here. We are roughly allotting to the various State Governments affected with drought and flood nearly 9 lakh tonnes of foodgrains every month. This includes wheat, rice and coarse grains. I do not want to take much time of the House by giving the figures for each States. They are available, but, certainly, where the necessity is more, we are giving more. I cannot claim that I am meeting all that is demanded because I have noticed a tendency and that is unfortunate, that the surplus States try to show not as much surplus as they have and the deficit States try to show more deficit. So, I have to strike a mean between the two. But I think the quantity that we are allotting is more or less commensurate with the requirements of the States concerned in the situation in which they have been placed on account of flood or drought.

I went to Rome to attend the World Food Conference. Certainly India put forth a suggestion to the Conference and I am happy to say that the approach placed before the Conference by India has by and large, been accepted by the countries attending the Conference. One Member—I think it was perhaps Joshiji who with all seriousness tried to humour the House —tried to draw a caricature of the Rome Conference. I will assure him that the deliberations at Rome were not such as to lend themselves for drawing a caricature The last Speaker, perhaps it was Shri Purushottam, said that we only talked there. He forgets that in democracy we mostly talk That is what he does in this House as well. Even that talking did a lot of good to the developing nations and it was a gratifying thing to see that a group of 77 developing countries, moving together in all spheres, had a tremendous effect on the developed nations and I hope the unity that was established among the developing countries at the Rome Conference will continue so that we can develop our agriculture and become self-reliant in the matter of requirements of foodgrains of the developing countries.

I may inform Joshiji that when I spoke in the Conference I did not speak only on behalf of India. I spoke on behalf of the developing countries of the world. If at any stage I brought in India, it was only at a stage when I offered scientific and research assistance to the developing countries which may require that assistance. Otherwise, whatever

I said was on behalf of all the developing countries of the world and perhaps, that is one reason why the developing countries were attracted towards India.

Some friends asked, what has been the achievement at Rome? The achievement at Rome has been that there is a consciousness among the developing nations that they have been neglected and exploited all these years and that they should move concertedly in all spheres if they want to achieve anything and there has been an awareness on the part of the developed nations that they can ignore the development of the developing countries only at their great peril. I think these are the magnificent achievements of the Rome Conference.

For the Rabi sowing we have assured the State Governments that we will meet their requirements of seeds, fertilisers to a great extent and also the credit I think we have made available to the various States from our own budget roughly Rs. 55 crores as short credit loans. If further assistance will be required, we will try to find and meet their requirements.

About Bihar or West Bengal they required seeds and they approached us at a very late stage. But even at that stage we have made arrangements from the Food Corporation or from the Haryana Government to see that their requirements of seeds are fully met.

As I said, the situation is easing. I will appeal to the Members of the House not to say anything that will disturb the delicate food situation in the country. It is not my claim that there is no distress to our people in the affected areas. Some of them are in a miserable condition. I have no hesitation in admitting that. But the conditions that exist to-day are the accumulation of the economic and social conditions that have existed in the country for years. It has not been possible to disentangle ourselves from the inequitous social set-up in our country that affects the agricultural production as well. If one compares the productivity in the Western UP and the productivity in the Eastern UP, all the conditions being similar, one would come to the painful conclusion that the social conditions are also a very important factor in agricultural production. Where one works himself in the field or where one works entirely by hired labour, the productivity shows a great variation. That social set up also is a factor to reckon with in our agricultural production.

The day I took over this responsibility I was talking to my officers of the various departments and I said that my effort will be to see that there is no necessity of a Food Department at the Centre. And that can be done only when we develop our agriculture in such a way that we become self-reliant in our requirements of food-grains. With our rivers with sweet water, with our inexhaustible reservoirs of underground water, with our fertile soil and with our sturdy farmers, there is no reason why we cannot become self-sufficient in our requirements of food.

And during the period that I will be incharge of this Ministry, I may assure the House that it will always be my endeavour to develop irrigation potential in such a way that even in the worst monsoon, our crops may not wither away.

I am conscious of the fact, myself being a student of Science, that even after all the achievements of Science, Science will have to stand as a pigmy before the giant of Nature. All the same, the pursuit of Science will continue to add to the happiness of mankind.

India, in its agriculture, will try to enlist all these scientific and technological developments for increasing the agricultural productivity in our objective of achieving self-sufficiency in our requirements of food. I may tell Shri Guha—I bow to him—that the approach to food should be kept out of all political considerations. He should

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join in our efforts to see how we can jointly lessen the misery of our vast mass of people. It will go a long way in our *Garibi Hatao* programme, if we can show that there is no one in this country who has not taken his bread during the night. There would be no children who will not be given the necessary nutrient for their proper development. This endeavour should be above all party considerations, that is, by raising the stature of this nation, by our stature we can say that in India nobody is hungry, nobody is unhoused and nobody is unclad.

It would have been better to discuss this problem—a delicate, serious and the national problem—not on the basis of an adjournment motion but on some other basis. Having done that, I appeal to the House and the mover of the Motion that with all his emotions he will also think of withdrawing his motion.

श्री मधु लिमये : (बांका) आप की अनुमति से मैं एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूं।

सभापति महोदय मैं यदि एक सवाल आपको पूछने दूं तो मैं दूसरों को नहीं रोक पाऊंगा। आप के आने के पहले यहां के तीन चार माननीय सदस्यों ने मुझ से यही कहा था।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह . आप एक पूछेंगे तो मैं दो पूछूंगा।

सभापति महोदय आप जानते है कि आप की ही पार्टी के गुहा साहब है, वह कुछ कम नहीं है, वे सारे सवाल पूछ सकते है।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was hearing the speech of Babuji with much . . .

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): We respect the Chair not to ask questions My only submission is this that in the course of the debate, you told Dr. Kailas that you would permit the questions later. Would you permit us to put questions now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I did not say that. I only said that I shall consider that later. I considered that and I am not allowing that now.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The Chairman spoke like a Minister'

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I heard the speech of Babuji with much respect and expectation. But it appeared to me as if Babuji has become a doctor who was giving very good advice to a cholera patient: 'Wait, we are preparing a very good kind of chloromycetin and when it is prepared indigenously, you will be saved; don't worry, our policy is fine, our objective is nice and our hope is very glorious and humanitarian' I have heard the speeches of many other friends It appeared to me that this Parliament has prepared a bundle of speeches as good relief articles for those people who are anxiously looking to this Parliament for a few morsels of food

I have been accused to be an emotional man. Many people may not know, but at least Babuji knows that I picked a word of Swami Vivekananda 'Daridra Narayan' and the word of Ramakrishna जतिय जीवा ततिय शिवा in my young days, and I was greatly inspired by these maxims of these two great men. When I find Daridra-narayan, the mother and the son fighting each other to snatch a morsel of food from each other, when I find a mother leaving her dead child or a child dead in the arms of the mother, when I find a mother wants to get a ladle-full of kicheri in addition with a dead child, when I find parents giving up their sons and daughters either to be sold or to be lost, when I find that parents are killing their children and then trying to kill themselves, when I find many Muslims divorcing their

wives to get rid of these problems, as a human being, I will become a wooden hearted, stoic person, only worth living either in a jungle or a cave, if I do not become emotional. I will consider it as a blessing of God to remain emotional in such a situation. The day I cease to be emotional—emotional not for any personal purpose but to be in tune with the emotion of Daridranarayan—then I think the day has come for me to quit. I do not speak with the voice of a hypocrite; I have not learnt the art of Machiavellian politics. I speak from my heart: I feel through my heart and I work through my heart and I consider this a blessing of God. If I do not respond to the misery of the people around me, what am I for?

Many people have accused me of exaggeration. For that very reason I have started from my own constituency. In my own constituency, I have seen and verified. I have said there are two kinds of them, one directly due to complete emaciation, devitalisation, decay from within, eating of the vitals by himself, of his own flesh, and another kind by taking adulterated food and having the cholera type of diarrhoea, a larger number of deaths being due to that. I verified not only from Government sources when I mentioned the figure of 700; I verified from the Chairman of the Medical Association I went round the villages Babuji would believe me when I say that after the last session I could not take a day's rest; I was doing as much as I could moving about though I could not still do much I may tell Babuji that I am also a student of science. I have my emotion but my emotion is backed by statistics and scientific argument and scientific facts. I say 700. The Chairman of the Medical Association said that it would be a thousand. To be on the safe side I deducted 30 per cent. About the others I have not said a single word of my own. I have only quoted the reports and statements of the Congress Ministers, Congress M.L.As, and Congress Presidents. If it is exageration who is guilty of exaggaration? Me or your loyal associates or colleaques? Here I have got one piece and I hope you will verify it It is in the Hindustan Standards... (*Interruptions*) tions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I tell you that it is totally wrong. You cannot cross the floor and go to the Minister and give something to him like this. You have to give it to me. Please do not do again. I do not wish to use strong language. It may be a good expression of your emotions or whatever it is. You should not play to the gallaries in this manner. You must allow me to regulate the proceeding... (*Interruptions*) This sets a bad precedents and it should not be done.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Do you accept the challange? You are a student of science and I also belong to your faculty. The challange is this. I have said that according to my pesonal investigation in my own constituency there were about 700 deaths I have not quoted Shri Pramod Das Gupta and others who have also issued statements I have not quoted any opposition leaders.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you address the chair for a change?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will Babuji accept the challenge and institute a National Commission to investigate into the reports of starvation deaths, to find out whether they are real or whether it is political propaganda from West Bengal to get money from the Centre. Let the Commission be given 15 days to get at the facts.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I have appreciated his emotions and I have appreciated everything he has said. I have never challenged anybody nor do I accept challanges.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: The issue is whether there had been thousands of

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starvation deaths, whether the Government has provided adequate relief for the starving people. I am not raising the basic issue of agricultural production or the construction of irrigation works or the price policy. I have not raised the question of the import of food or the issue of nutritions food or additional proteins content, or increasing the per capita consumption. I have said that you should feed the people who according to the official record are starving and are facing famine conditions. That is the only appeal I made to the Government. The Government is taking shelter under the Finance Commission's recommendations. If there is an earth quake in Delhi or Lucknow or Calcutta which is not covered by the Finance Commission should nothing be done? ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken 40 minutes for your first speech. I will be highly obliged if you finish by 7.30.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: It is not codified in the Finance Commission's recommendations. Are you not incurring extra expenditure on that? When these natural calamities have overtaken West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and other parts of the country, would you be bound by the Finance Commission's recommendations? Last year you spent Rs. 300 crores in the drought prone areas by way of central assistance. But why have you not given a single rupee to West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, etc.? You did not answer that. My only point is, get food from wherever you can, either by deboarding or by import or even from Mars. People want food. That is the only basic issue. People are dying and you have to save them. For that, no logic is needed. At least keep them in skin and bone for the coming few months. To that you have not replied.

The hon. Minister and the Congress members spoke laudably about the distribution system. Coming from a rural constituency, I know it is the policy of the Government to kill the producers in the villages to feed the urban people. You talk about distribution of food in urban areas. It is my experience that infrequently the village people got ration through fair price shops, not frequently. We should feel ashamed of it. They got usually *makka* and milo and on occasions wheat, that too only 100 to 200 gms per head per week, which is not even sufficient feed for the chicken. That is how you are feeding the producers of rice and wheat in the villages. This is the one basic reason for famine in the rural areas and people are dying not in urban areas but in rural areas. My young friend, Mr. Das Munsi was so vociforous about gratuitous relief. In my constituency, 1.5 per cent G.R. was given S.D.O. admitted that 70 per cent of the people in Contai are facing starvation, i e 10 lakhs. A few days ago, when I led a demonstration before the SDO's office, he said that this circular has come to distribute 1.5 percent reducing the quantum, but raising the total number of recipients to 6 per cent. West Bengal Govt. said Rs. 12.5 crores were distributed among 22 million people Leaving aside the establishment, maintenance and other contingency expenditure, it comes to Rs. 10 crores. That means per head Rs. 5. That means 1½ kilos of rice or 2½ kilos of atta that you have given per head for 3 months. These are the figures given by the West Bengal Government. It is not my figure.

Babuji, forget the Finance Commission as you did in the case of Maharashtra, Gujarat and other drought-prone areas last year when you spent Rs. 300 crores. You have not started any development projects of any kind in the eastern region and you cannot expect the benefits of it. On the plea of the Finance Commission's recommendations, do not withhold your central help. You must come out with central help to feed the people and save their skin and bone.

Lastly, I have not done politics till now. I tell you there was massive demonstration in my constituency. I could not provide them transport. They come from only 7 miles and they were 15,000 people. I first decided to take 3,000 or 4,000 people with me for the satyagraha. I did not do it in the name of any party but for the famine relief committee. Then I thought that if it is a big procession with so many people, if we go like that, I will be first arrested, then the people will be lathicharged and there will be looting of the whole city. To avoid that, I stopped that and I alone offered satyagraha with 25 colleagues. I do not want to play politics at all. But, at the same time, I will tell the people in authority not to have feasts in five-star hotels not to indulge in luxuries but to do something for the amelioration of the condition of the starving people. If they continue in their present behaviour, I told Mr. Dias, "do not expect me to behave as I behaved on the 4th November. Whatever may be the consequences, I will not allow my people to die. I will fight them. If there is firing, firing there will be because the fire of hunger is more powerful than the so-called police-firing."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

'The House do now adjourn"

The motion was negatived.

19.32 hrs.

ARREST OF MEMBERS

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the House that the Speaker has received the following telegram dated the 19th November, 1974 from the Police Commissioner, Nagpur:—

"Shri Jambuwant Dhote and Shri Ram Hedaoo, Members of Lok Sabha, arrested and taken in custody at 12.05 hrs. today (19-11-74), at Nagpur under section 342 IPC and Section 7 Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932 by Shri V. B. Deshpande, Police Inspector, Sitabuldi for staging dharna at New MLA Rest House, Nagpur, and causing obstruction to MLAs and MLCs from going out to attend session of Assembly and Legislative Council at Nagpur. Both of them being produced before a Magistrate to day."

19.32½ hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FORTY-NINTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): I beg to present the Forty-ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

19.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, November 20, 1974/Kartika 29, 1896 (Saka).

MGIPND—M—2501 LS—978